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Scalextric fans hope to rev up a revival with 50 foot track for charity

2:00pm Tuesday 14th February 2012 in



By [Melanie Vass](#) »

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LAP COUNTER: Craig Gilbert with the new 50ft Scalextric track

IT'S the ultimate boys' toy and has been entertaining children – and their dads – since the 1950s.

Now two Bournemouth men are aiming to start a Scalextric revival by taking their specially-built track on tour around Bournemouth and Poole.

Craig Gilbert, 46, and Jon Pearce, 44, have used around 50 feet of track – all donated by LD Discounts in Poole – to build a challenging circuit for new and experienced Scalextric fans.

The idea stemmed from an innocent conversation about their childhood memories of the popular toy.

“As it happened, my older brother had said the previous day that he was throwing out all his old equipment and did I know anyone who wanted it,” said Jon.

“I mentioned it to Craig and boys being boys we got a bit carried away.”

Unfortunately his brother's track had deteriorated and, despite their best efforts, they couldn't get it to work.

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So Craig sent an email out to stockists to see if they could help them create a Scalextric course that could be used to raise money for charity.

LD Discounts came up trumps and the pair, who both live in Normanhurst Avenue, Queens Park, put together a course and rigged it up to a computerised race management system that times laps to within 100th of a second.

The pair are planning to test the track at a free event at Moor-down Community Centre. Racers will receive five minutes of practice and will be guaranteed a minimum of four races over 20 laps.

All being well they will then take the course to various different community and youth centres and invite people to compete for the Bournemouth and Poole Community Scalextric Challenge Cup.

The event will raise money for the Community Arts and Music Project based at Townsend, which Craig runs.

Craig, a music teacher and web developer, said: "I hope it's going to be a great way of fundraising, especially with a cash prize for the fastest lap which will bring out the competitive spirit in people."

And Jon said: "Scalextric never loses its appeal – if anything it's more fun now."

The free race night will run from 6pm to 8.30pm on Monday, February 27 at Moordown Community Centre, Coronation Avenue.

All entrants must pre-register by emailing scalextric@tcamp.info. All cars will be supplied.

Comments(1)

l'anglais says...

3:37pm Tue 14 Feb 12

2 questions;

Will my kids get more exercise doing this rather than playing with their Playstations?

Would the Echo also give free publicity to a local sports shop, especially this being Olympics in blighty year?"

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Is 15 right age to discuss subject?

AT WHAT age should you talk about a sensitive subject to a child? At eight, 10 ,15 or 17?



Was the Barfleur too expensive?

I HAVE just heard that the Barfleur will not be with us this season.



Valentine's Day meals: what are you planning?

Will you be cooking up a feast for Valentine's Day? If so, what are you making? Do you resent the idea of paying more to eat in a restaurant on the day of love? Let us know.



Which movie gets your award for best film?

WE'RE in the throes of awards season and silent film *The Artist* proved it can make a big noise when it picked up seven awards at the Baftas on Sunday.



Life of tragic Edith Piaf forms show at Lighthouse

IT is almost 50 years since the death of France's most popular chanteuse, Edith Piaf. Now her music, synonymous with French cabaret of the 1940s and 50s, comes alive once more as Eve Loiseau performs at the Lighthouse Poole on March 2.



That'll Be The Day, Lighthouse, Poole

NOTHING succeeds like success, as they say. And 25 years on the road with an ever-changing programme of popular music from the Fifties, Sixties and Seventies most definitely qualifies as success for this talented team.

Wellies and Waders walk at Arne

The next Wellies and Waders walk takes place on Wednesday 15th February between 10am-12pm. Wrap up warm and bring your binoculars and you may get to watch some of the birds seen by walkers last Wednesday.



Public sector bonuses under review

The coalition has launched a review of public sector bonuses amid anger over payouts at bodies such as Royal Bank of Scotland.



Crouch targets England recall

Peter Crouch is hoping Fabio Capello's resignation will open the door for him to return to the England squad.



Whitney funeral at childhood church

Whitney Houston's funeral will be held at the church where she first showcased her singing talents as a child.

Bournemouth

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