

FUN RACES

When you hear the word 'race', what comes to mind? ...maybe a swimming race?...perhaps a car race? Well, for the people of Congham and the Isle of Man they think of snails and tin baths. Let's find out more about these unusual races from two of our readers.

What & where: World Snail Racing Championships, Congham, England

Tell us all about it: When my sister asked me to go to a snail race with her, I thought it sounded a little strange to be real! But a week later, I was in a field sticking a number 56 on a garden snail. We decided to call our snail Lewis after formula One's Lewis Hamilton! Eventually, a farmer called Neil sprayed water on a table – to help the snails move – then told us to put our snail on a circle inside another bigger circle. Neil shouted 'Ready, Steady ... SLOW!' and the snails were off ... sort of. The 'track' is only 13 inches but they move ... well, at a snail's pace! Lewis reached the outer circle in 3 minutes 35 seconds and came third in his round. The world record is 2 minutes by a snail called Archie in 1995. Hopefully this year's winner enjoyed his prize – a silver tankard full of lettuce! I can't wait to take part again next year!

Sarah, London



What & where: World Tin Bath Championships, Isle of Man

Tell us all about it: Last summer, my Uncle Tom took part in the tin bath championships in Castletown harbour on the Isle of Man, which is between England and Ireland. I really wanted to go with him to watch the race, so he agreed to take me! Uncle Tom found his old tin bath and made some paddles. Just before the race, we decorated his bath with flags and balloons and he dressed up as a Viking. The winner is the person who crosses the finish line first, or the person who gets the furthest before they sink! It's difficult to stay dry! Although Uncle Tom pulled a muscle and his bath sank, he still won. I also loved the tin bath jousting and the bird man competition when competitors try to 'fly' into the harbour using silly costumes and huge paper aeroplanes. It was hilarious! I'd love to take part in this race one day, too. Maybe I can practise in my local pond!

Michael, Belfast



[Click here to tell us about a fun race in your country!](#)

Match the words in bold in the texts to their meanings.

- to make sth more attractive
- how fast sb/sth moves
- to arrive somewhere
- sth that is very funny
- to participate in sth
- an event where people try to win an award