

# Rally driver's wild and wacky challenge



CROWD PULLER: The rally car crosses the finishing line.



DRIVER AND THE BEAST: Louise Cook and the cheetah that pipped her to the post.

## Woman pits her skills against the world's fastest beast — the cheetah — and comes second

**A UNIQUE race pitched some very unusual competitors against each other in a celebration of speed.**

Nature park Eagle Heights in Fynsford organised and hosted an event which rivalled anything neighbouring race track Brands Hatch has to offer as up-and-coming rally driver Louise Cook pitted her Ford Fiesta against a Peregrin Falcon, Marshall Eagle, Greyhound and Cheetah.

Miss Cook, 23, is the only female driver competing in the British Rally Championships, lying in sixth of 27 racers with one competition to go, but despite this pedigree had to accept second behind the cheetah in a close fought contest.

She said: "It certainly was a bit different. Usually my competitors aren't so furry and feathery, but it was great fun." The event, organised by Eagle Heights owner Alan Ames and his son, chief handler Jonny Ames, attracted about 600 visitors and helped to raise more

than £500 for The Cheetah Conservation Foundation.

Jonny Ames said: "It was probably one of our most exciting days at the centre. I love anything that is fast I love my cheetahs and peregrins and my dad is very into his boy racer cars so we just decided to have a celebration of speed."

Competing over a 200 metre course Miss Cook set a competitive time of eight seconds holding off a close challenge from the falcon, which recorded 8.4, but was pipped by the fastest land animal on earth as the cheetah stormed to a time of 7.8.

The greyhound picked up fourth with 11.3 seconds and the eagle came in last with 18.3 seconds.

Miss Cook, who is still hoping for a top three position going into her final race of the year, added: "It was a win win situation for me. I wanted to help raise money for charity and also raise my profile."

As an amateur racer she is attempting to secure sponsorship from companies across Kent to help her raise the £25,000 needed to compete.

For more information visit [www.cutecookie.co.uk](http://www.cutecookie.co.uk)



IN THE HOT SEAT: Louise Cook behind the wheel of her Ford Fiesta.

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HAVING FUN: Louise before jumping into her car.