



ROTARY CLUB OF WAITAKERE

Making A Difference In Our World

P O Box 104-017 Lincoln North, Auckland 0654

www.soapboxderby.co.nz

AASBD: Akron 2012

And the winner is....

Although the big AASBD Race didn't go quite according to plan (knocked out in the first heat) – the International special Race produced a stunning result. Gemma came **FIRST** in this race and will be bringing home a trophy.



Gemma with the trophy for 1st in the International Race

What:	All American Soapbox Derby Race Week	
Where:	Akron, Ohio	
When:	Sunday 15 th July 2012 to Sunday 22 nd July 2012	
NZ Champion:	Gemma McDougal St Ignatius School East Auckland	
Team:	Gemma (NZ Champ) Linda McDougal (mother)	Shawn Dyer Deborah Knox (2010 Champion's parents)

Meeting every Wednesday evening. 6.00pm – 8.00 pm
 Starling Park Sports Club 34 Glen Road, Ranui
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Sunday 15th July 2012

Hi Terry

Full access to the car this time - Brilliant!!
Car is ready to go & so is Gemma.
Hotel great, thanks.

Shawn, Debbie, Linda & Gemma.



Monday 16th July 2012: Opening Ceremony

Ohio.com

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL ONLINE

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

<http://www.ohio.com/news/local/akron-welcomes-422-soap-box-derby-racers-1.320772?ot=akron.PhotoGalleryLayout.ot&s=1.320771#>

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Soap Box Derby champs from around the world throw trinkets and candy to the crowd as they are introduced during the Welcoming Celebration at Lock 3 in downtown Akron on Monday. (Karen Schiely /Akron Beacon Journal)

Gemma McDougall, 10, of Auckland, New Zealand throws gifts to the crowd as she is introduced with other Soap Box Derby champs from around the world at Lock 3 Monday. (Karen Schiely /Akron Beacon Journal)



Soap Box Derby champs from around the world throw trinkets and candy to the crowd as they are introduced at Lock 3 Monday during the Welcoming Celebration. (Karen Schiely /Akron Beacon Journal)

Soap Box Derby champs from around the world throw trinkets and candy to the crowd as they are introduced at Lock 3 Monday. (Karen Schiely /Akron Beacon Journal)

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Tuesday 17th July 2012

Weigh in



Waiting ... (she did change shoes!)



Still waiting...



Weigh in at Akron

Gemma spent the afternoon with 1 other girl being filmed for an American Sports documentary – interviews & racing a different car 5 times down Derby Downs track!!

Over 100 degrees F here today!!

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I had to do 5 runs with cameras on my head & pointing back at me and another filming the race.

These cars were used in the movie 25 Hill.

Gem

x

Thursday 19th July 2012



Gemma in the Topside car holding shed with her car

Friday 20th July 2012



Polishing the car

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Polishing the spindles



Lining up for a practice run

Saturday 21st July 2012



And they are off...

Gemma is in the middle lane in her first heat in the AASBD Race.

<This photo is a screen shot of the live video>

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For those of you who didn't watch online around 1.00am, Gemma got knocked out in the first round of the main event by a local Akron driver who trains at this track, BUT she won the International Competition, which I believe is the FIRST TIME a New Zealander has won this!!!

We have Awards Ceremony tonight, so there may be a trophy to bring home after all???

Thanks for all the good wishes from everyone - it meant a lot to the team.

Linda & Gemma

xx



The New Zealand Team:

Debbie Knox

Shawn Dyer

Gemma McDougall

Linda McDougall



Beating Canada in the International Finals

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Gemma receiving her trophy for coming 1st in the International Race.

The drivers that competed in this came from Canada, French Canada, Germany, Japan and New Zealand

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