

Wierd Sports

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Cheese chasing

On the second bank holiday in May each year, contestants from all over the world gather at the top of Cooper's Hill in Brockworth, Gloucestershire, for its famous cheese-rolling race. Their goal is the madcap pursuit of a Double Gloucester cheese sent hurtling down a precipitous 200-metre slope. The winner gets the cheese. Others get bruises and breaks.



Egg throwing

- Staged every June in the Lincolnshire village of Swaton, the World Egg Throwing Championships claims origins of as early as 1322, when a local abbot offered local peasants an egg every time they came to church. Today's competitions include catching eggs hurled across the local river, as well as Russian Egg Roulette chosen from five hard boiled eggs and one raw, then smash it against one's forehead.



Bog snorkelling

- The World Bog Snorkelling Championships are staged each August in a bog on the edge of the Welsh town of Llanwrtyd Wells. Contestants from around the globe battle to negotiate 60 yard-long trenches filled with gloopy mud and water. The current world record was set in 2014 by a Surrey woman, who did the course in 82.56 seconds.



Hen racing

- For over a century, the Derbyshire village of Bonsall has staged World Championship Hen Races outside the Barley Mow pub. Local villages compete, racing chickens over a 15-metre track – with the birds given three minutes each heat to cross the finish line and any fighting between hens resulting in disqualification. Any spectator who makes jokes about runny eggs may be asked to leave.



The Chap Olympiad

- Forget ascot, Henley, and so on. The top upper-class summer event is the Chap Olympiad, staged every July so rakish gents and stylish ladies can celebrate British eccentricity and sporting ineptitude in a spirit of surreal silliness.



The End