

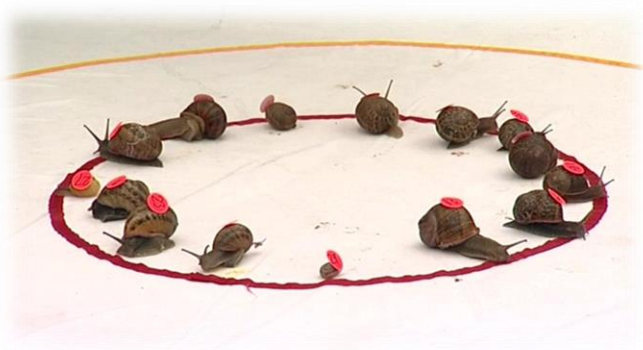


Weird Sports in the UK

By Nefeli Poulopati

The World Snail Racing Championships (England)

- "World Snail Racing Championships" take place annually and started in Congham, Norfolk in the 1960s.
- The founder Tom Elwes witnessed the event in France.
- They usually take place on a circular track and the snails start in the middle and race to the perimeter.
- The radius is traditionally set at 13 or 14 inches.
- Small stickers or tags are painted on the shells of the snails or racing numbers are placed on them in order to distinguish each competitor.



Cheese Rolling - England

- It takes place during the last weekend in May each year on the top of the Cooper's Hill in Gloucester England.
- People gather with a seven pound (~3 kg) hunk of cheese. The cheese can travel at up to 30 miles per hour.
- The aim of the competition is to race the cheese to the bottom of the hill and they have to follow it any way they can. The first individual across the finish line at the bottom of the hill wins (the prize is the cheese of course).



Pea Shooting

- The World Pea Shooting Championships is held on Witcham's village green, Cambridgeshire. The event has been held annually since 1971.
- In this competition, contestants shoot a pea through a tube, 12 feet towards a 12-inch target.
- This event is taken very seriously by some competitors and some participants even have laser-guided shooters.



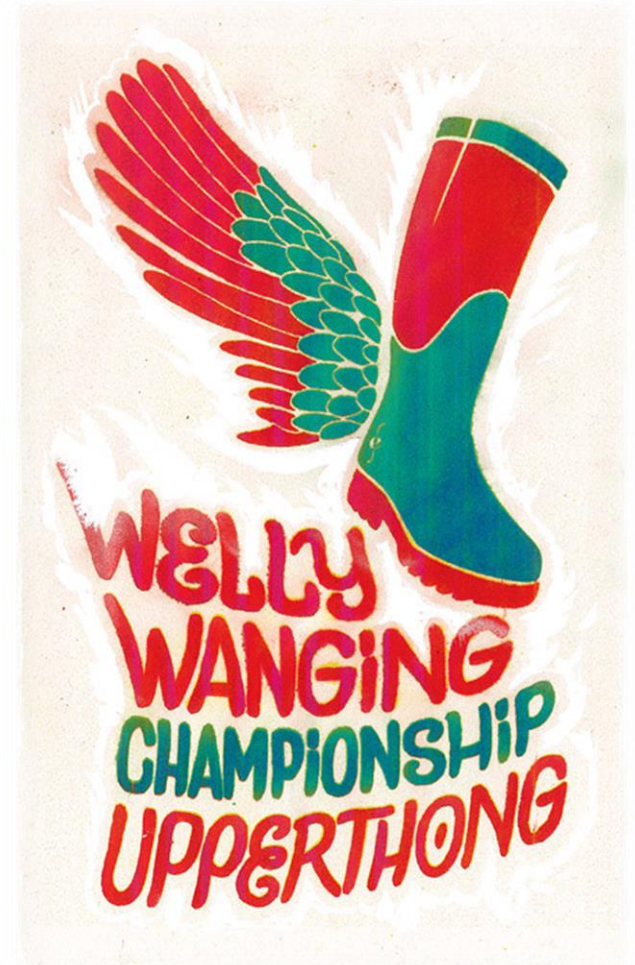
Pie Eating

- The World Pie Eating Contest is held annually in Wigan, in the northwest of England.
- People have been traveling from all over the world to compete in this event for over 15 years.
- In the past, contestants were supposed to eat as many meat and potato pies as they can in three minutes.
- The rules have been changed so that the emphasis is on speed rather than volume.
- Also, the competition includes a vegetarian option now.
- Now the winner is the person who can eat any pie in the shortest possible time.



Welly-Wanging - England

- Sometimes it is also called the 'welly toss' or 'welly throw'.
- The principle of the game is very simple – all competitors have to do is wang (Yorkshire for throw) a Wellington boot as far as possible within the boundary lines.
- The competition is an annual event held in Upperthong Village.
- The standard welly is a green, size 9, non steel toe-cap but competitors can choose the left or right boot.



The End