

## Morgan Sports Car Club Parc Ferme Speed Championship

### Castle Combe Sprint

20<sup>th</sup> October 2007

After an early frost and patchy fog and in contrast to last years heavy rain this late October provided a dry benign autumnal setting with rich colours to delight the eye. 14 intrepid Morgan hopefuls journeyed to the wild and woolly south west part of this Sceptred Isle for this the last event of the calendar. It seems they do speak in a strange tongue in these parts with the use of the word "rite" with a particular emphatic nasal twang at the end of each sentence.

Castle is a challenging but, on the correct line (Simon?), a rewarding venue. However, many of a 120 strong field found the chicanes, the Esses and Bobbies, too difficult and to quizzical hoots of laughter the Stewards issued a warning bulletin to those who sought to avoid them altogether.

Pulses were racing with high expectations of one last convincing demonstration of skill and mastery of speed from us all – carpe diem -, and some were delighted with the early posted times until it was pointed out these were finishing line mph speeds not actual circuit times.

The Morgan spectator vantage point at Camp Corner (no pun intended) provided fine views of some impressive steering wheel waggling and wrestling by Phillip Tisdall, and very tidy racing lines by Paul Bryan, David Hobden and Neil Stocker. John Bevan, in studying the detailed course notes, deduced he was losing time unnecessarily in the corners. Following an early "off" at Quarry by a MG, newcomers David Leach and David Simpson exercised justifiable caution. As ever the "young turk" Hobden junior led the way in practice, easily dipping under bogey. Practice was a double lapper with the first lap timed. Thereafter, an unduly overlong interval until 2 runs after lunch.

Experience began to tell with continuous improvement from practice through to the second run. Brian Lee on his first run posted his best time ever for this circuit. Paul Clarke recorded the fastest time of the day from all the Morgans despite too much fuel and a recalcitrant speedo.

At the end there were 4 competitors under bogey, --well done Laurence Hobden, Gregor Dixon Smith, Simon Baines and Tim Ayres in that order.

For the championship it was Laurence 1<sup>st</sup>, Gregor 2<sup>nd</sup> and Simon 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Additionally Gregor finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and Paul Clarke 3<sup>rd</sup> in their respective Pegasus classifications.

An end of season thank you to Brenda, to Sue the flapjack queen, to all supporters including satnavs, our resident photographers, and of course the championship organisers.

ps The ice cream van stood forlorn without you know who.

tempus fugit so ill leave you with an observation--- Queen Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> had wooden teeth, an exorbitant wig, a shaved hairline, a white painted face and yet somehow managed to remain a virgin!!!!

Peter Rafter