

Morgan Sports Car Club Parc Ferme Speed Championship

Round 16 27th August 2007

Colerne Sprint

The Colerne Airfield is jointly owned by the three armed forces and since our last visit in 2002 there have been changes to the sprint course for security reasons which have resulted in the back straight being shortened and the finish being extended to take in two further corners with the result that we now get at least twenty seconds extra track time per run. Because of the changes it was agreed that practice times should be used for targets

Only four Morgans were originally accepted into the large entry but drop outs from other classes eventually allowed seven to compete although there was no separate Morgan class and we were at either end of proceedings with four at the beginning of the running order and three at the end including John Bevan who was moved up the order for the second timed run as the organisers decided that as he did not bring an MOT certificate with him he should go into the Modified class.

Practice got off to an untimed start when a support car drove away with the timer's electric cable tangled with its trailer and was restored only part way through the first runs so class 9 Morgans had to wait for the second run for their target time which Philip Tisdall duly set at a predictably rapid pace.

Despite the large entry the lunch break was on schedule and the time was used by the Hobdens to re-fix their cars exhaust tail pipe retrieved from the back straight and by David Leach to ponder the reasons for the vibration felt under braking in his early +8.

The afternoons competition was very close. On run 1 Laurence Hobden was 3 seconds quicker despite having said that his practice was as fast as he could go and then Tim Ayres recorded a time 5 seconds faster than in the morning to take the lead at the half way stage. .

On the final run Tim went quicker still and was able to see off the challenge of Philip who tried just a little too hard on the last bend and understeered through the marker cones.

David Hobden continued to improve but was thwarted by Laurences target time and John Bevan was significantly quicker as he explored the limits of his new engine but was just outside the class 7 target

Then after a long wait until the final two competitors went to the line everything changed. First of all my car found some rare speed to take the lead and then David Leach who had been told not to worry about the brakes and just go for it did exactly that knocking over 5 seconds from his time for maximum points in only his third ever event.

An exciting day – lets hope the organisers will allow a larger Morgan entry next year.

Paul Bryan