

Morgan Sports Car Club Park Ferme Speed Championship

Round 12 Debden Sprint

15th July 2007

The Herts County club welcomed the Championship to compete in Essex for surely the first time ever and 5 brave souls made the journey to join the County's Speedmog representative.

Debden is a former airfield now used for military purposes and the sprint is run mainly on perimeter roads which have seen better days but the host club spend time and money on carrying out repairs and although the drive could be described with understatement as uneven in places it adds to the challenge and the course itself is a good combination of sweeping bends and sharp corners which is difficult to learn and needs a lot of concentration.

As the only entrant who had competed at this venue before I had the advantage of knowing about the Roundabout - which is marked out in cones and has a narrow entrance at the end of a fast sweeping left hander. Walking the course can never be sufficient preparation for the suddenness at which this entrance comes into view and you have to know to start braking hard well before it is sighted.

Despite (or because of) my pre event advice first practice saw five Morgan drivers either miss the turn at the first attempt or go the wrong way round the roundabout or just straight through the cones.

We were worried that we might not get proper target times but we have to learn fast at Speed events and second practice saw us all getting round at a good pace.

With the grippy surface warming up in the sunny spells the afternoon promised some quicker driving and this soon proved to be the case with all drivers improving their times.

John Cocks had to contend with son Matthew's target time in their shared car which proved too hard to beat but all other drivers were ahead of their targets by the end although Jim Mountain's problems with the Roundabout continued.

Chris Bailey improved consistently to get down to the 75's and a well earned third place on handicap and Tim Ayres showed that a well driven +8 was a match for the Evos Imprezas and Porsches present and would have taken an award in the open category. Despite improving over 3 seconds on practice he had to take second place in the handicap to Matthew Cox whose final time was very quick for a class 1 4/4.

A well organised event and a good venue and I hope we can return in greater numbers.

Paul Bryan