

Morgan Sports Car Club Park Ferme Speed Championship

Round 9

Gurston Down Hill Climb

Saturday 16th June

Gurston Down is not a long course but the down hill start and the tricky Carousel double bend make it an interesting and challenging venue and the Wiltshire Downs setting is lovely. A newly tarmaced main paddock was another in the line of continued improvements to the motor sport section of the working Gurston Farm.

Roger Shadbolt could not make the event as someone had managed to write off his tow car and this left 14 Speedmoggers on the entry list including first timers Philip and Margaret Parkes in a + 8 and Roadster respectively and David Leach in a Moss box + 8.

With large areas of the country affected by bad weather we were fortunate to have the traditional Gurston sunshine for much of the day - just a short shower before lunch which sent everybody running for shelter except for Laurence Hobden who as a second driver was in a later batch and was getting very wet in the start queue.

Practice was largely uneventful but the Hobden +4 was obviously going to re-write the Class 5 record and the three new drivers were making significant improvements and appeared already hooked by the competition.

By the end of the lunch break the course showed hardly any sign of the previous shower allowing us to take full advantage of the quite grippy road surface and the braver ones (at least in the 4 cylinder cars) could say that it really is possible to go flat out all the way to the Carousel braking point despite the look of the bend at the bottom of the downhill section.

Afternoon times were predictably quicker and by the end three new class records had been set - by Laurence Hobden in class 5, by Joe Philips who improved his own best time in Class 1 and by Clive Hall who re-took the class 2 record by the narrowest of margins. The handicap awards were all taken by Class 5 cars - driven by Messrs Hobden, Hobden and Mountain

Another very enjoyable Gurston day.

Paul Bryan