

Morgan Sports Car Club Speed Championship 2007

Event Report

Shelsley Walsh, 12th May 2007

Shelsley is the oldest continually used motorsport venue in the world and a very fitting venue for the championship. Unusually we did not have the benefit of covered 'pits' and this was made a double blow by the weather forecast!

The day began with John Cocks suffering a 'senior moment' and forgetting his licences! However by deft use of a courier service face was saved and John was able to make his last practice and all timed runs. This was the first competitive visit to Shelsley by Simon Baines and class 9 looked set for some hot competition. Tim Ayres was using 1A tyres and hoping to pull off an advantage on this fast track. We also had a number of new or nearly new competitors in the form of Martyn Whatley, Jonathan Shanly, John Holmes and Clive Glass.

Morning showers left the track damp which combined with the unique Shelsley practice system and newly laid tarmac made it difficult to judge progress. However it was clear that John Stephens, Greg Dixon Smith, and Clive Hall (on his Stag weekend) were all well up in the 4 cylinder classes. In the larger engined classes Tim Ayres 1A choice looked to be working whilst Simon leant the track, but Phil Tisdall (a Shelsley member) was using his local knowledge well.

Timed runs began on a still damp track and continued to show the form of the morning practices. Jim Mountain entertained the crowd by the start line as he missed a gear, waving his hand as he ascended the hill. Apparently he was saying something like 'oh dear' to himself! Further up the hill Paul Clarke hit some mud from a previous competitor and had what the commentator described as a 'brown adrenalin moment"! Clive Hall also did a 'Plant' and managed to complete an unharfull spin at Bottom Esses. Tim Ayres continued to put a spanner in the works of the 1B runners.

Running at the end of the session meant that final runs were blessed with sunshine and a dry track at last. Class 1 was ably taken by Mathew Cox from dad John. Despite having no class competition John Stephens and Clive Hall fought the stopwatch well both being in contention for overall honours. Paul Bryan put in a demon last run but was just pipped for class 7 honours by Greg who had been consistently fast all day. Paul Clarke took class 10 but well done to new boys Jonathan and John as well. Battle royal was set for Class 9 between Simon, Tim and Philip but could Nigel Ledger Lomas come out with a demon time to take the class? Drama was played out until the final run with local expert Phil Tisdall taking the class from Tim (1A) Ayres with super smooth Simon beaten into third place. Look out as Phil tells me his is doing a special hillclimb school at Shelsley soon!

Overall honours went to Greg Dixon Smith with John Stephens second and Paul Bryan in third. The margin between the three being less than half a second!