

## Morgan Sports Car Club Parc Ferme Speed Championship 2007

### Event Report

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> August

Venue: Three Sisters, Wigan – 2 laps

Weather: Sunny and warm to start with temperatures increasing throughout the day.

This was a race about the number four. I have no idea how many times '4' has featured in the National Lottery but it was certainly getting its numerical worth on this summery Sunday. Firstly, there were four places up for grabs, it was my fourth event of the season, there were four attempts around the circuit and the 'Fours' in the Morgan stable were showing the 'Eights' what sprinting was all about by taking those four places.

In my case, it was all about taking things steady with my 4/4 as I tried to remember the turns, straights, bumps, another lap, finish line and the close proximity of the wheelie bin I was parked next to. For one or two it was about spinning around, such as Jon Shanly on his first practice run at the entrance to Lunar Bend. It didn't appear to dampen his spirits and his times improved considerably throughout the day. Richard Smith, Simon Moore and I failed to receive a time on our first practice laps – maybe they didn't like us or maybe they were putting on sun lotion at that stage.

Interestingly, Nigel Ledger-Lomas spun in the same place at Lunar Bend on the second practice run with Philip Tisdall almost making it three spinners for the Morgan camp. Apart from these two everyone else managed to improve on their times, even Clive who was struggling with fuel issues but still managed to beat his times on each occasion. Similarly, Chris Bailey was carving away at his earlier time as was Tim Ayres, who shaved nearly 4 seconds off his first run.

After an incredibly long lunch, or so it seemed, we were all back out for another blast around the circuit, some of us blasting around more than others. In particular, Simon Moore looked especially pleased with his first timed run, while Richard Smith set a quick time in his 4/4 shedding over 2 seconds from his previous time, finishing second overall. Simon Baines experienced an adrenalin rush at the end of Conrod Straight, almost forgetting the slight corner in the final few metres. Who knows where he could have finished if the brakes had not been found? Manchester? Still, he got the fastest time of the day so it was clearly worth it.

On the other hand, Phil and Tim both made mistakes in their final runs, although fine performances from the first timed run meant that they had beaten their target times. Likewise for Chris, who was having a real power surge on his final run.

This brings me to my target time. Ha, ha! As I chuckle at the winning plaque on the fireplace, it reminds me of Wogan's Words of Wisdom, once said on a 'Top Gear' whiz around, "Nobody's going to die here." Indeed not.

Karena Carden