

MSCC Parc Ferme Speed Championship 2008 Event Report

Venue: Aintree
Date: 28th June 2008
Weather: Dry and Windy

Just once in a while it's nice to see predictions come true!! Aintree was dry for once and a highly competitive time was had by all.....

The morning practice runs went without a hitch and the first timed run before lunch saw John Stephens break bogey, with Dave Frow, Clive Hall, Richard Smith, Chris Bailey and Simon Baines all within a second of their target times. Stickerman (aka Nigel Ledger-Lomas) was beginning to question the merits of the additional passengers on his times – never has so much fear been seen in the eyes of so many bears!!!

'Dangerous' Dave Simpson is beginning to realise what a powerful car he has, clocking 123mph through the finishing straight speed trap, although there was some suggestion of inaccuracy later in the day when he was clocked doing 3,666mph. Still, he does have prior knowledge of the course, as a jockey in the 1960's riding 'Puzzled' – muzzled fits the car better (or at least keep it on a leash!!!) – Marvellous!!!

Lunch was taken early – although not early enough for Chris Baines, who needed topping up around 11.30 (and at almost hourly intervals throughout the day.....). If Jon Baines had time lapse on his camera I'm sure you could watch him grow daily!!

The afternoon runs remained competitive, with Simon Baines going on to score just three hundreds over bogey, whilst three drivers successfully lowered the bar for us in the coming years – John Stephens ended up outright winner, less than two tenths better than Dave Frow, and Richard Smith almost half a second under the previous best time for his class. Simon Baines ended up with fastest time of the day.

The unofficial ladies race between Karena Carden and Michelle Bailey was eventually won by Karena by just over a second, Chris Bailey finished 5th less than half a second over bogey, Clive Hall – now on 1B rubber was also flying, finishing 6th, with Simon Moore pipping yours truly to 7th and 8th places respectively. My excuse last time was too-powerful pads, this time a bound rear brake drum must have slowed me down a little – I wondered why the start marshal kept telling me to take my foot off the brake as he lined me up!! Still, there's always next year.....

The fun wasn't over when the official timed runs were competed, as those who wanted to undertook two further timed runs. Roy Wilkinson, in his first season is improving all the time, and interestingly was faster with the hood in place later in the day during these later two runs, dipping into the 69's and sending him home with a big smile on his face.

And finally, a happy 70th from us all to 'Dangerous' – a true sportsman!!

Clive Glass