

MSCC Parc Ferme Speed Championship

Bentwaters Park, Sunday 18th May, 2008

Weather: Dry, sunny spells, some cloud.

The day of the event dawned dry and sunny, which was lucky since your keen reporter had left his roof at home and it had poured with rain the day before in Suffolk!

Nine Morgans and eleven drivers had entered for this event. Paul Clarke did not arrive because of a recurrence of an intermittent fault with his car, which stopped it four times en route to the venue. We hope it will be sorted out for Paul's next event.

We were pleased to welcome Lizzie Stephens and Jonathan Edwards to their first competitive events. Lizzie was double driving father John Stephens 4/4 and John Edwards was in an immaculate black 4.6 litre plus 8.

Team Miller was out in force (with matching jackets) and Jim Mountain was driving his flat rad + 4 for the last time before switching to a 4/4.

The day started quickly, with 2 practices and the first timed run before lunch. A confusing first bend caught out several competitors as a "four wheels off", although after much confusion this was rectified by putting out more cones. John Stephens, Tim Ayres and Jim Mountain fought for 1st place on handicap with successively quicker times. Meanwhile new driver Jonathan Edwards was very quick in his Plus 8, recording a good time even with a spin!

The lunch break allowed us to admire Leigh Sebba's beautifully original black Plus 4 Plus whilst listening to skylarks singing over the airfield.

Chasing a bogey of 98.95, Tim Ayres came in 7.24 seconds below to claim first place with a blistering run of 91 seconds, despite the best

efforts of the local insect population to sabotage his runs by buzzing around inside his helmet! Jim Mountain came a close second (5.7 seconds off bogey)- not bad for a car with a slipping clutch and a malfunctioning rev counter! As usual, John Stephens was pushing hard, and had taken 5.58 seconds off his target. Altogether six competitors beat bogey. The dry conditions and cool air must have contributed to some very quick times, with Jonathan Edwards and Tim Ayres recording the 2 fastest times of the day. The threatening presence of two Apache helicopter gun ships lurking over the runway encouraged all and sundry to keep moving as fast as possible, before they got missile lock on.

Handicap awards went to Tim (Class 9), Jim (class 5), John Stephens (Class 3) and Paul Bryan (Class 7).

A very efficiently run day combined with a smaller entry compared to last year meant that we were allowed a third "fun run" after lunch. Andrew Miller used the bonus run to put in a very quick time, which would have been under target by 2.7 seconds.

It was encouraging to see two new female entrants to the championship (Lizzie Stephens and Anne Benischek) driving very quickly in their first few rounds of the MSCC Speed championship. We now have five female drivers competing in the championship.

John Bevan