

MSCC Parc Ferme Speed Championship

Debden

4th May 2008

A cloudy but warm and dry start to the day and 10 Morgans in the paddock for the championship's second visit to Debden. Missing was Matthew Cox due to an imminent move to the Isle of Man but we were pleased to welcome Andrew Miller and Anne Benischek sharing a drive in a nice looking blue 4/4 in their first competitive event and Bill Hiscock for his championship debut in his Roadster

The course had been lengthened since last year by the addition of a chicane and it had been agreed that target times would be set on the day with the first test of the Simon Baines formula which despite its apparent complexity turned out to be user friendly and worked well.

Debden is quite a tricky course and following a fast start doubles back on itself for a short distance after a roundabout which has a narrow entrance that only comes into view at the last moment. Those who had been to the venue before were able to advise on the need for caution on the approach to the roundabout and those who were new to Debden found it hard to believe that it could be necessary to brake so early – but soon learnt - and in practice Paul Clarke set a time which was to prove the benchmark for the target times calculations with Richard Smith just a blink behind on the handicap adjustment.

Practice finished without major incident and with target times set the competition started with most improving on the mornings efforts but there was no doubt that Tim Ayres was in serious mode as he blitzed his target with a super fast run which nobody else could get near.

Richard Smith was also in fine form to finish second on handicap and we can only guess whether this was despite the lack of an ice cream van or because of it. If the latter then the sacrifice was surely worth the seven hundredths of a second advantage over Paul Clarke in third.

In class 1 Andrew and Anne both drove with spirit in their first competition – Anne improving over 10 seconds on the day – and they finished just ahead of John Cocks.

Bill Hiscock also found more speed as the day progressed and did enough to pip the third class 10 runner, Greg Parnell.

Jim Mountain not only had a good days driving, improving with every run, but was then presented with a special award for the car which had most impressed the scrutineers – a fitting memento in what might be the last competitive outing for the flat rad for some time if the newly purchased 4/4 is ready for Bentwaters.

PB