

MSCC Speed Championship 2008 Event Report

Venue: Elvington York
Date: 27th September 2008
Weather: Sunny and Dry

This year's visit to Elvington was later than our usual slot of July, but proved to be a corker on the weather front, as I understand last year you could have made quicker times in a dingy.

The early morning start from Durham to Elvington was foggy and cold; after the ear bashing I got from Joanna whilst driving back from Curborough on how cold it was I played it safe this time and installed the side screens that's as far as I go, the hood is not for me, but I have to admit this was one of the coldest drives I've had in the Mog, I managed to convince Joanna all was well until a group of work men in the filling station kindly reminded her with comments like I bet your freezing.

Anyway as we arrived the sun was just starting to break through, eight mogs were entered with one shared drive that of Chris and Michele Bailey, this would be both Michele's and Roy Wilkinson's first time at Elvington, I think the numbers were down a little based on the fact Prescott was on the following day although Simon Baines and Karena Carden would be doing both.

Elvington sprint is based on the old airfield, more famously known for Richard Hammond's exploits, its flat, 1 mile in length and very quick, the course itself is laid out with cones and straw bales (we'll come back to the straw bales later in the report).

We had our first breakdown of the day before we even started, this happened to be Simon Baines tow car which developed a misfire on route to the circuit so a swift call to the RAC was in order.

With scrutineering over & done, with no issues it was on to walk the course, those of you who have been to Elvington before will know from the start half way down the straight we have a chicane to manoeuvre through, as we arrived at this chicane we soon realised how much tighter this was than usual, this caused much deliberation & concern on how best to approach this, as we moved round the course it was clear that although some parts were a little more difficult some others actually looked quicker so the current bogies should stand but we would monitor the practice times.

10.15am first ice cream of the day for Richard (Smithy) just before the convoy run which allowed us to take passengers, as we slowly drove round it came to light Joanna still hasn't got the hang of this sprinting with questions like "do you go much faster than this?"

First practice saw Simon already under bogie, with the rest of us deciding to take things a little more cautious, with second practice underway, it soon came to light that coming together with the straw bales could be costly as demonstrated by a TVR at one of the chicanes up the back straight, this collision ruled him out for the rest of the day, so whilst the marshals swiftly removed the vehicle Karena brought out the much appreciated lemon cake.

Back up and running second practice times coming down nicely as we all get to grips with course and temperature rising.

First timed runs would be before lunch just as the RAC arrived to sort Simons Audi, Richard's now into his second ice cream of the day; O' dear could this have an effect on his next run?

In the paddock Karena's two bears Prescott and companion (sorry Karena forgot his name) both strapped in the back of the Mog, enjoying the sun when Prescott spots Roger approaching with the trolley jack and

windy gun "O no he cries he's going to stiffen up the suspension I wish I hadn't eaten the leftovers of the lemon cake."

Simon and Clive in the plus eights were making steady progress, myself and Chris chipping away, Karena 7 secs quicker than practice so the suspension tweak was paying off.

Paul Bryan developed a misfire and eventually stopped this would require sorting for over lunch, as for the two first timers to Elvington Michele also 7 secs improved and Roy was so close to his personal target to get below 100 sec. O' and for Smithy, well the attempt to take the final chicane a little too quick saw him exit onto the grass in a cloud of dust, but he did manage to keep the engine running and resume much to the enjoyment of Jon and Chris Baines.

Over lunch Pauls car was the centre of attention, what was first thought as an easy fix to re-attach a broken wire turned out to be more complicated as smoke started to appear from under the dash and engine room, Chris Bailey did a sterling job under the dash sorting the wiring but unfortunately after much scratching of the heads we could not get any ignition, it was not looking good but remember the RAC guy what a nice chap after sorting Simons Audi he came down with his electric meter and pointed us in the right direction, and in no time we were back up and running (Burnt out Ign switch which just required by passing).

It was looking good for 3 more runs after lunch, run 2 saw the competition starting to heat up Simon improved further now 1.3 sec under, myself also just under by 0.2, both Chris and Clive only second off theirs and Paul after the wiring rectification claims his quickest time of the day.

Run 3 Simon had a problem with a noisy exhaust manifold, surely this would slow him down "No chance" he went even quicker now 2.48 secs under, Roy came in with his arms in the air to applause from the Mog spectators he had achieved his personal target. Ice creams all round, Richards 3rd of the day; this was well deserved as he came in under bogie.

Run 4 had another slight delay as a mini went off and rolled I'm pleased to say the driver was ok but the mini looked in a sorry state, as the day cooled down Simons exhaust now fixed only Chris Bailey managed an improved time, unfortunately for Clive as he pushed to get that final 1 second to claim bogie he came into contact with those dreaded bales fortunately only minor damage to the radiator mounts, PSJ decided I wasn't going to have 1st gear for this final run, which also made the drive back north a little eventful with 3 gears.

Final Results of the day:-
First: Simon Baines
Second: David Gibson
Third: Richard Smith

Overall a great day with superb weather and good company.

Many thanks to Brenda for the time keeping and keeping us all informed we need to go quicker.

Also well done to the Auto 66 club for a very well run event with two practice and 1 timed run before lunch and 3 timed runs after lunch, a very slick operation.

If you haven't tried Elvington before or never tried sprinting before I would recommend you try it next year it's an ideal venue for new starters with big run off areas.

David & Joanna Gibson