

MSCC Speed Championship

Llys Y Fran

Sunday 20th July 2008

For the MSCC Speed Championship's first visit to the South Wales venue meant an early start, 3am to be precise.

Crossing the Seven Bridge the sun was shining brightly in the rear view mirror giving promise of good weather for the forthcoming days motor sport.

There were only 3 Morgan entries on the day, Tim Ayres in his +8, Clive Hall in his modified 4/4 4 seater and Jim Mountain running his new 4/4 for the second time. Maybe the £5.30 toll to drive into Wales and £1.30 for a litre of unleaded had put a few off!

The course is set in Llys Y Fran Country Park, 10 miles north of Haverford west, located in the valley formed by the dam that holds back the huge Llys Y Fran Reservoir.

The hill is 880 metres long with a slight downhill at the start, into a sharp right hand bend and across in front of the foot of the dam, then into a very long sweeping left hand uphill bend taken almost flat out, around another right hand bend into a tight left hand hairpin, up a small ramp, and through a tight gate, then right uphill to the finish. A very satisfying drive.

Both morning practice sessions went without a hitch for all 3 Morgan pilots with good gains made in the second runs, then after what seemed like an age for the times to be posted, a phone call was made to Simon Baines, who was on standby with access to NASA's computer systems, carried out the necessary sub atomic equations to calculate the bogey times for the afternoon.

With the bogey times set, the sun still high in the sky and a light breeze the timed runs were under way, all three drivers made gains, with Clive in first place and Tim second having both beaten bogey.

After a slight delay to let the marshals clean up a Vauxhall Corsa that rolled onto its roof at the hairpin, the second timed runs got underway. Tim had a moment at the hairpin himself getting his +8 well out of shape and Clive was also a bit slower than his first run with only Jim going faster, doing just enough to beat bogey, but the positions from the first timed runs still standing for the final results, Clive 1st, Tim 2nd and Jim propping up the rear.

All in all a great hill and a great day out, well worth the trip, think I'll camp overnight if we go back next year.

As a bonus it's free to leave Wales!

Jim Mountain