

MSCC Parc Ferme Speed Championship 2008 Event Report

Venue: Olivers Mount

Date: 4th May 2008

Weather: Dry, warm, with intermittent light showers

The Festival of Speed Weekend at Olivers Mount grew this year into a 3 day event providing the opportunity to gain plenty of practice on this course whilst enjoying the social side to the sport during the evenings. As the championship round was on the Sunday, a number of Speedmoggers chose to enter on the Saturday to get that much needed practice. Newcomers to the event this year were Philip Tisdall and Jonathan Shanly but as we signed in, we heard that Jonathan had withdrawn so the Saturday entry was now down to 5.

1st practice proved problematic for Clive Glass as he outraked himself at the hairpin but by 2nd practice there were improvements all round. By the 1st timed runs, more problems were apparent as David Frow was found to be searching for gears due to a faulty gear linkage. With no quick fix in sight, we were now down to 4.

And so to Sunday and the forlorn hope of a depleted field of 7. An early morning text message from Sticker Man aka Nigel Ledger Lomas described an argument with a pigeon on the way to Scarborough that had left him with a holed radiator, so now we were down to 6.

This was Michelle Bailey's first event and she certainly looked like she was serious in her new pink overalls whilst husband Chris looked more nervous than Michelle, busily polishing and re-polishing the car.

The practice runs were disrupted by a light spell of rain that dried almost as soon as it had stopped raining, leaving a dry track for the timed runs.

The 1st timed run saw the ladies taking large chunks off their times although Karena was struggling with understeer at the Mere Hairpin. Clive was now getting to grips with his brakes and times were improving on each run. Phil was giving chase to yours truly so it was time for a big push, in case the weather deteriorated. A run that just broke a bogey time that had proved elusive for 3 years left me with a feeling of elation, although this was soon dashed when I attempted a U turn in the holding area and discovered what it feels like to drive a Fraser Nash as the limited slip diff was now slipping no longer. So now we were down to 5.

The 2nd timed run provided more improvements for the Bailey Team with Chris now just over bogey whilst Clive again found more time.

And so to the final run, with Michelle recording another personal best in the earlier batch this left 4 cars remaining.

Chris was first to run but could not make an improvement whilst Karena made one final push to master the Mere Hairpin, only to find the hairpin won. Clive was also pushing hard but unfortunately got no further than Farm Bends where he ran wide off the course and this left only Phil to join Chris at the top of the hill. 2 cars left out of a possible 8 - what a weekend!

Simon Baines