

## MSCC Parc Ferme Speed Championship 2008 Event Report

Venue: Teeside Autodrome

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2008

Weather: Hazy with spells of strong sunshine. Let's face it, lots better than Croft. Well, no one complained of frost bite.

May. The start of summer 2008? The creeping, lingering heat of tyres, engine and adrenalin surged drivers increasing the north east's temperature to a racing pulse. Naturally, our Morgan paddock had all of that in abundance. Including knitting and polishing (see the Baileys for further information).

The elated eight-some beamed in the warm climate with almost everyone improving their times during the second practice, except for Richard Smith who decided to drive a different route to everyone else-mainly up a grassy embankment after the first bend...and down the other side. The commentary that could be heard near the start line was quite amusing for those that were in earshot: "I've never seen anyone do that before". Silly man. He's obviously not witnessed Morgan's on a sprint before.

Simon Baines was the other non-improver during second practise, but then he was driving a different car to Wobbit, Webbit, Whoppit (whatever the Baines Boys told me on Saturday), having damaged the differential at Oliver's Mount the day previous. Yours Truly offered a shared drive in my class 1 4/4 (Millie, not Wabbit) but Simon reckoned he could go faster in a lawnmower, thanked me politely, rolled his eyes and sweet-talked John Stephens into sharing his much quicker 4/4. Same cars, two different drivers, dramatic difference: something to do with John confirming, "I use fifth on the straight".

Nevertheless, it was all hands on deck as the second runs whipped up a frenzy of aggressive activity after a sunny lunch. Michelle Bailey, on only her second outing of the season, rapidly dropped three seconds off her time and then four seconds off that on her final fling. Although Chris looked concerned in a husband sort of way, the rest of us realised that he was calculating how many more laps it would take for Michelle to get close to his times. Still, his immaculately polished car (he traded in marmalade sandwiches to clean his car and Richards) shimmered, shined and shimmied to a very quick 115 seconds. The smile said it all.

In the middle of the group, John Stephens outpaced Simon with a blistering winner of a run, showing the rest of us how to tackle the sweeping bend on the back straight while Brian Lee quickened on his first run only to record exactly the same time on his second run. Richard left the green bits alone for a better result as Peter Rafter bounced over a couple of rumble strips in the chicane whilst in attack mode during his final run, which knocked off two seconds. As for myself: two seconds removed, big grin and nervous twitch.

Overall, the car-sharing duo took the trophies. Poor Simon looked bemused at the glass/crystal objet d'art he's won. Well, if you had shared my car then you wouldn't have had to worry of deciding what to do with it. Lawnmower indeed.

Karena Carden