

## **MSCC Techniques Speed Championship**

Round Four. Bentwaters

17<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Only 6 Morgans made it to the huge expanse of wind and rain swept airfield that was Bentwaters – the 4/4's of Jim Mountain (still awaiting new engine) Paul Bryan (running in a new engine without the help of a rev counter), Anne Benischeck and Ian Hargrave and the +8's of Trevor Firmin and Rob Toon.

The venue is basically an out and back 3.5km course with fast bends and four chicanes and most cars will easily exceed 100 mph between each chicane and braking points are crucial for good times but it would prove hard to determine these with the changing conditions.

The length of the course and the inclement weather put off many from walking the course but we were advised at briefing that the far chicane had been made tighter and the two final straight chicanes were a bit smoother but there did not appear to be enough of a difference for the championship target times to be adjusted.

The rain had stopped by the beginning of practice but times were inevitably affected by the standing water and also from wrong routes through the cones – twice for Rob Toon who had no idea where he had gone wrong. A drying track for second practice saw big reductions in times apart from Jim Mountain who was too busy closing the passenger door and giving a lift to a stray cone (not at the same time) and the runs ended with Paul Bryan leading on handicap.

The organisers decided to have the first competitive run before lunch as the weather was holding and with a now practically dry track every one took the opportunity to put in fast times except the practice leader.

Rob Toon was the final runner in the group and successfully finding his way round the cones put in a storming drive as the rain started to fall again improving by over four seconds from practice but Anne Benischeck had done even better in her sleek blue and white car recording 112.52, just 1.07 seconds above the Class 1 handicap target to lead the Morgan group.

There was the prospect of a very competitive finale but the rain continued to fall throughout the remainder of the first run and the lunch break and Rob withdrew seeing no further chance of serious driving.

In fact the sun appeared and with a brisk wind the track dried out enough for determined efforts to be possible in the afternoon but there were no improvements in the leading times and Anne was a worthy winner from Rob and Paul. Trevor Firmin drove consistently for fourth ahead of Jim Mountain who is very keen for his modified engine to be ready and Ian Hargrave the only driver to improve on each run.

PB