

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Event 22 Castle Combe – 17th October 2009

A chilly but dry Castle Combe welcomed 13 contestants for the last round of the Morgan Speed Championship. Due to circumstances beyond their control John Bevan, Ian Hargrave and Rob Toon were unable to compete, although Rob Toon was in regular mobile contact with Richard Smith to establish championship positions! Lord Unstone was double driving Jim Mountain's 4/4. We waited with bated breath to see if he would find a dry stone wall to introduce Jim's car to.....

The two lap first practice went smoothly, despite the fact that Team Miller had to borrow a silencer from Jim Mountain after some questionable noise testing. A long lunch break followed and allowed the competitors a chance to read the Daily Telegraph article on Morgan which featured Gregor Dixon-Smith's car.

The first timed runs showed that Paul Burry was not put off by driving a standard Plus 8 as he beat bogey by almost 2 seconds. Meanwhile, Andrew Miller had taken almost 3 seconds off bogey and Jim Mountain had put in a solid run almost a second below his target time. In class 7 Gregor Dixon-Smith put in a cracking first run almost 3.5 seconds below his target. Paul Bryan was a tenth of a second off bogey and exploring the potential of his new engine.

With precious championship points up for grabs the competition could only become more intense for the second timed runs. Determined to live up to his new found media fame Gregor put in a storming time of 93.08 seconds, 3.55 seconds below bogey. Attempting to catch him Paul Bryan took off over 1 and ½ seconds off bogey but could not match Greg's speed. Clearly practice at the centenary track day had paid off for Gregor. In his last event in his Plus 8 before switching to an Aero 8 GTN Greg Parnell was chipping away at a difficult to obtain target. Despite pushing hard Andrew Miller could not take any precious time off his first run. Meanwhile, Jim Mountain had lopped almost a second off his first run. Final positions were Gregor first, Andrew second and Paul Burry third. Although not high up in the points local boy Andrew Potter set fastest overall time of the day in his Roadster Lightweight with a run of 87.3 seconds.

So to the championship- John Stephen's had retained first place and Rob Toon and Andrew Miller were tied in second place. A cracking finale to the season and one of the closest finishes to a championship for a long time.

John Bevan