

## MSCC CLUB SPRINT, CURBOROUGH, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Ace reporter Unstone

I think I will start by saying what a superb weekend it turned out to be, but this was only to be expected. I parked my box on wheels at Curborough at the crack of dawn on Saturday, and carried on to Mogland: (Malvern) where the Morgan Masonic Lodge was holding one of its 5 meetings in the year. This meeting was to welcome a new member: (more members needed, contact me for details). After lunch, I trolled back to Curborough, and met up with Tim Harris, he of the 4/4 VVTi fame, soon followed by Rob Heap. The three wheeler Club had been playing all Saturday, and it was great to catch the tail end of their big day, all helping to build excitement for our own big day. When the sun was approaching the yardarm, Tim led us across a few fields, along by the canal, ending up at the Mucky Duck, aka The Swan at Fradley Junction, where a Mogtalk Noggin had been planned, and met with Jay and Polly Hale plus a few others. A good session there, followed by a few tots of blackberry whisky along with fellow campers in my box rounded off a good day.

Sunday dawned, bright blue sky, and we caravanners and campers were rudely woken by the influx of speed monkeys, over 50 of them, cars ranging from an Aero Blackburn, a few F2's, F4 Sports, Super Aeros, all of which were 3 wheelers, all absolutely cracking machines including 2 Aeros and a single entry in the Modsports class.

The big downside for me was that I wasn't taking part in the Club's Big Sprint, the second time I have been unable to since my motorsport career started, but was given the task of writing an unbiased view of the proceedings.

I thought the most apt viewpoint would be to test those drivers to see who had picked up tips from the Unstone School of Driving, and it was not long before they started to show their entertainment qualities. Some tried to take a short cut over Molehill, namely Nigel Housley, Granville Martin and Philip Parkes, other spinners included Fastest Man on the circuit Mike Hall in his slick-tyred 5 litre Mog, but John Cox failed the Unstone Test completely when he ventured off the track, sliding backwards into the tyre wall, this being only the second corner of his first timed run, putting him and son Mathew out of the competition for the rest of the day, bending his fender in the process. The eventual winner of the USD went to Dave Gibson in his immaculate +4, spinning in the best spectator spot, opposite the molehill in the middle of the infield (also my favourite spin venue), then trying to carry on as if nothing had happened. However, I was subjected to a stewards enquiry and accosted by the ever-getting-faster Karena Carden who thought her spin at the hairpin should have deserved merit, but sorry Karena, you spun **on** the track, staying **on** the tarmac, great spin though it was, graceful an' all that, but no piece of cheese for you unless you gather mud or grass.

It was great to see so many new faces, or should I say helmets, on the track. If you do only one event a year, then this has to be the one. Mention must be made of Ian Hargrave (Best Smoke of the day going into the second lap), Gavin Rintoul, Maurice Dempsey, Tim Harrison, Dave Spraggett, John Batt, Trevor Firmin, all new to the sport behaving themselves on the track putting up decent times, John Holmes and Ian Cummings in their Aero 8s, which must be quite unwieldy cars to throw around this

tight track, but I must make mention of two more, Tamsin Sebba in her very first Sprint, fresh from Cheltenham's enthusiasm-building Auto Solo, which has to threaten her Dad Leigh's sole use of the car and finally, to Hairy Jono, who came in for a lot of stick when he went gravel-bagging at Harewood, but spent the day gradually chipping away at his dad Simon's times, staying on the track this time.

The fastest driver in each class then took part in a run-off: another two laps of the course; with the best crowd possible cheering on, comprising all the other drivers and an appreciative bunch of spectators who had stayed to the bitter end.

And so to the results

The overall winner was Greg Dixon Smith, who beat his best time by .38 seconds, second Chris Martin, John Bloody Stephens rolled in third, (a novel place for John!)

Best Novice of the day was Hairy Jono Baines, who was barely a couple of seconds behind a nervous-looking Simon, and best Lady of the Day went to Anne Benischek.