

## **MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2009**

**Colerne 31/8/09**

12 Morgan pedallers turned up on a very overcast and misty morning at this excellent Wiltshire venue. The organizers had allocated all cars according to their own classification system and somehow John Stephens ended up in the modified class! Practice got underway with tentative times being recorded by most except John Stephens who set a time of 85.24 - some 11.74 under bogey!! After a stewards enquiry it was decided that there must have been something wrong with the timing equipment but more on that later. Second practice saw most improve with some scorching times set by both Tim Ayres and Rob Toon with Paul Burry on 1A tyres not far behind. Andrew Miller was in good form and posted a time well under the class 1 bogey he set last year. John Bevan's day had not started well as his newly acquired ARDS race licence had not been returned in time by the MSA and subsequently he was fined £50 by the scrutineers! However he was improving his times and had his target well in his sights. With the weather improving and the track getting grippier the timed runs got underway. Times were now falling fast and it was evident that this was going to prove to be a record breaking day. John Holmes, in his recently acquired Aero 8, discovered how difficult it is to manage the mighty power of the 4.4 V8 BMW engine and had a spectacular 90 mph off on the final bend taking the timing equipment cables with him and briefly halting the event. Andrew Potter pedalled his racing Roadster furiously and posted his best time of the day. By the time the second runs had been taken some handicap times were upturned. Anne Benischek, whose mother had flown in from Germany witnessed her beat her target by 2.13 secs with Greg Dixon-Smith achieving a tremendous 2.20 secs off his target. Paul Bryan's new engine delivered also with a hefty 3.09 sec improvement on handicap setting a new class 7 record. Yours truly was not on the pace and failed to get anywhere near the class 11 target of 82.08 but did improve on personal best. Bad luck continued with fellow class 11 driver John Holmes who drove a faultless second timed run only to find out some time later and after he had packed his car away that the timing clerk had failed to operate the timing machine correctly and no time was recorded. Despite this it was agreed that under the Championship rules he had completed his timed run and was thus awarded 1 point.

At the end of the day a truly remarkable result with 7 drivers beating their targets including Andrew Miller taking a massive 6.02 seconds off his previous record. No doubt giving the Championship handicap committee some food for thought for next year's Colerne event.

Finally Dave Simpson was not well and could not make it and we all send him our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Greg Parnell