

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2009

Event Report

Venue: Curborough
Date: 26th April 2009
Weather: Dry and Windy

A collective name for a group of Morgan Sprinters and Hillclimbers should be a "Swarm"

Definition "Swarm". Group of brightly colourful individuals rushing about at high speed in a number of unplanned directions whilst making a lot of noise.

Highly active for a short period of time before disappearing without trace! Harmless until provoked and then very harmless.

The "swarm" of twenty one drivers arrived at Curborough on a bright and sunny Sunday morning. For many it was their first event of 2009 and expectations were high for a good days sport. The usual protagonists appeared. Parnell, a pair of Parkes, Bevan, Smith, Lee, Hall, Baines and the Twin Towers to name but a few. It was also good to see some new faces that have been bitten by the bug following the highly acclaimed taster day a few weeks ago.

Scrutineering was quick and thorough although the strip search came as a shock to many! The total field numbered no more than around fifty cars with a great cross section of the four wheeled community, from standard Peugeots to BMW's and the very rapid bike engined single seaters. Making his debut was Jonathan Baines in Fathers new Lightweight. Now there is a brave man!! Ray Eatock had travelled down from't North in his green 4/4 and Gavin Rintoul made his first appearance in a +4 T16. Apart from the Bevan dustbin all vehicles were polished to perfection and ready to go! The scribe pitched up in his +8 having finally finished the fourteen-month re-furb by adding a set of anti tramp bars to ease the pain of take off!

First practice came and went and the moaning started with many realising that the winter lay off had left them rusty and in need of practice. John Stephens snuck in a 71.33 as an opener but the quickest through the first session was Simon Baines in the lightweight with a 66.26 followed by your scribe with a 69.14. In spite of the dry conditions and rapidly warming track it became clear that bogey times were going to be difficult to achieve. Second practice saw more confidence across the field. Martyn Whalley producing his best time of the day with a 79.29 a full 1.45 seconds faster than his first attempt.

Quality marshalling meant that Run1 was taken before the lunch break. The adrenalin flowed and Smithy whipped in a 70.99 that was to be his best run of the day netting him 5th overall and 8 points. Funnily enough after a substantial lunch he was significantly slower, I can't think why!! Dangerous Dave Simpson in the Star Ship Galactica had his best time of 68.24 as did John Bevan who recorded a 73.30. Simon Baines produced the overall FTD with a blistering 64.09 but was always going to struggle against a savage bogey time of 60.50. Meantime Jonathan Baines was quietly getting to grips with the job and produced a commendable 67.36 which I believe can now be viewed on You Tube for those of you tired of You Porn !!

Run 2 saw the red mist come down and many gave their all, resulting in their quickest runs of the day. The track was warm and times tumbled. The flying postman Gavin Rintoul delivered a first class effort in his +4 T16 and put his stamp on the occasion with an 81.06. The Parkes pairing refreshed from a couple of portions of the finest chips and a quick puff on a pipe crossed the line with Margaret registering a 79.35 and Philip 74.57.

Maurice Dempsey reduced his first practice time by a massive 4.94 seconds with a 77.60 and, after a prune and sennacot bap the scribe managed to beat bogey by 0.51 secs crossing the timing line at 66.42.

The father and son "Team Martin" were making good progress in the very quick TR engined Supersports with its terrific period alloys and wonderful engine note. Family competition was fierce with son Christopher winning the day and taking second place overall with a storming 66.70 just 0.12 behind bogey.

The final dash of the day saw a good few improving yet again John Stephens hotly pursued by Smithy popped in a 70.17 with the final results board reading as follows.

First place went to your scribe "Toony" closely followed by Chris Martin with the ever quick John Stephens taking the last podium position. If there was a man of the match it would undoubtedly have been awarded to Jonathan Baines on his debut event. A calm and collected and mature performance rewarded the trust placed in him by his Dad. A fastest time of 65.85 a mere 1.76 seconds behind his experienced father, twelfth position and 4.5 points. A job well done and a great future ahead of him. Congratulations.

Rob Toon