

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2009

Event Report

Venue: Elvington York
Date: 6th June 2009
Weather: Wet to start, dry from late morning.

Round 6 and back to our usual calendar slot the speedmog crew headed to Elvington air field in York, over the last two weekends in the UK we were spoilt with fantastic warm sunny weather could we have 3 in a row? I watch the weather daily, then hourly but each time I checked the rain was there to be seen, and the temp was dropping dramatically. As some of you are aware Joanna does not like the cold, or the rain, or the wind, so I made the bold decision to trailer the mog at least she could sit in the tin top if indeed the forecast was right.

So we headed off early morning yes it was raining and the closer we got to York the heavier the rain, as I approached the main roundabout in York I did have a thought of going right round and back home calling it a day there and then but in true speedmog tradition we pressed on hoping it would improve.

As we entered Elvington and parked up the rain stopped (spooky) here we met up with another 11 brave souls Clive Glass; Karena Carden; Stuart Kellet; Paul Bryan; Michele and Chris Bailey; Roy Wilkinson; Simon and Jonathan Baines, and two new comers for their second event this year, Ray Eatock and Maurice (Maverick) Dempsey apparently Auto 66 mis-read Maurice's entry and had him down on the list as Maverick.

Elvington sprint is based on an old airfield, its flat, 1 mile in length and very quick, the course itself is laid out with cones and straw bales, with good run offs.

So on to walking the course, for those of you who have been to Elvington before will know from the start half way down the straight we have a chicane to manoeuvre through, last year I reported on how much tighter this had become, well you guessed it this year it was even tighter this would have an impact on timings, the rest of the course was unchanged.

First practice the mogs were in a variety of spec some with roof and side screens, others with full windscreen and some going for it from the start just in aero's. With no further rain the track was mainly dry with some damp places, all speedmogs took it very cautiously getting a feel for the track especially the first chicane where last year you could take a sweeping line through here in third but not this year down to 2nd in order to get a good exit, this showed on the initial times being posted.

All back to the paddock with no incidents, where the eagle eyes of Simon and Jonathan spotted that Roy's Toyo's were fitted on the wrong side, i.e. Toyos have a directional tread (Left and Right), Simon and Jonathan soon had the jack out and all was corrected in a time F1 McLaren would have been proud of, Roy said it was a simple mistake or had he found that the tyre worked better this way?

On to second practice and with it came the rain, which totally transformed the track and caught a few people out including yours truly. I set off with full windscreen half way down the straight could not see a damn thing, attempted to put the wipers on which made it worse and they eventually stopped in the centre after a couple of sweeps, (Do wipers on Morgans actually work or are they just a fashion accessory), Paul Bryan entered the chicane on the back straight with all 4 wheels sliding towards the bales then at the last minute found some grip and managed to pull through, Chris Bailey nearly losing it coming out of the same chicane but managed to hold it together, I did exactly the same thing but did not hold it together and ended up facing the opposite direction a manoeuvre Richard Smith would have been proud of, (Must check

my Toyos are running the correct way when I get back to the paddock) although according to Roger Carden I did the fastest time through the speed trap backwards at 44mph.

Speaking of Richard Smith the ice cream van takings were well down this year, the owner was gutted to here Richard would not be attending.

On to the serious stuff and the first timed run before lunch with the rain now history no excuse, although still not warm enough for Karena to drop the hood as her hands and nose were still feeling the chill. All of us making significant improvements as the weather improves and we start to get to grips with the first chicane notably Jonathan Baines who was only 3 secs off his dads time, this is one to watch for the future who in his first season is already on the pace, its nice to see the young coming into the sport but who said they had to be so bloody quick! The two newcomers Ray and Maurice were also making steady progress getting to grips with the track. Roy now with tyres correctly mounted improved by 5 secs.

Last year Paul Bryan had an electrical fault with his mog; this year with a new engine nothing could go wrong, could it! as he set off at pace on his second run so far down the first straight steam started to emerge from underneath the car this would also cause him to try some green grass manoeuvres further round the course, back to the paddock and the speedmog crew congregate to have a look fortunately it was just a heater hose which had blown off, this was soon refitted and water replenished from Pauls personal water tank (Camper Van) and all was well.

Runs two and three saw times starting to come down nicely, Chris, Simon, Ray and myself all within 2 secs of boggy while Michele, Stuart and Clive making notable improvements from run1, the best performance came from Karena and Jonathan who both knocked off 5 secs from their first run.

Run 4 with track temperature now cooling down we did not expect to see much further improvement however 7 people managed to knock off more time notably Karena and Paul who Improved by a further 2 secs, Chris improved by 1.2 secs (0.77 from boggy) and Ray improved by an impressive 0.74 secs (0.48 from boggy) which would see him take first place on the day not bad for only his second event.

Some took the option of a 5th run which was classed as a fun run as times did not count.

Final Results of the day:-

First: Ray Eatock

Second: Chris Bailey

Third: Dave Gibson

Finally as we set off on our onward Journeys all of us were heading for Harewood the next day, Stuart Kellett's car which never missed a beat all day decided it wanted to stop at Elvington and refused to start, it turned out that one of carbs pulled in some dirt and caused the other carb to flood.

A good day's motor sport provided by Auto 66 who are currently under many restrictions from the local council relating to noise and are back in court soon, hopefully the outcome will be favourable.

Many thanks to Brenda for the time keeping and keeping us all informed we need to go quicker.

David & Joanna Gibson.