

## **MSCC Techniques Speed Championship**

### **Gurston Down**

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> June 2009

**Weather:** Cloudy/Mainly Dry

13 Morgans gathered at Gurston Down on the rolling hills of Wiltshire on the morning of the summer solstice. Since my Morgan had left Gurston Down last year in a different shape to the one it arrived in I took this to be a good omen.

There was a particularly interesting range of cars present. Roger Shadbolt's slick shod Fiat engined 4/4 with a Lancia Thema head. Michael Hughes' "Tupperware" plastic bodied 4/4 which was previously owned by Tony Morgan-Tipp and Paul Bryan's 4/4 with its new tuned 2l Zetec engine putting out 210 bhp at the flywheel.

Once scrutineering was over and the cars fettled Anne Benischek, Andrew Miller, Michael Hughes and myself decided to walk the hill. Well we got 2/3rds of the way up before having to jog back down again so that the hill could be opened!

1<sup>st</sup> practice saw Peter Turner beating bogey whilst Joe Philips was only half a second off the pace. By second practice Joe too had beaten bogey and Paul Bryan's new engine was coming into its own bringing him to within a second of class 7 target time. Margaret Parkes had discovered that the commentator was the same foolhardy man who had been rude about the colour of her beautiful roadster at an earlier event and was considering how she might gain her revenge. Newcomer Ian Hargrave consistently knocked time off every run.

Lunchtime saw the ice cream man looking doleful without the presence of Richard Smith, whilst the Morgan competitors wondered how they could go into Hollow Bend at 130 mph like the single seaters were doing. Meanwhile, Tim Ayres had arrived to cast an eye over the proceedings whilst his Morgan recovers from an off at Wiscombe Park. We decided not to take his advice that braking was not necessary for the tight turn at Karousel.

And so to the competitive runs. Run 1 gave Peter Turner his fastest time, with Andrew Miller making good use of the modifications he had made over the winter to get within a second of target time. Joe Philips was still getting quicker as was Richard Turner and Paul Bryan, who was now going over the finish line at almost 90 mph. Roger Shadbolt produced the fastest Morgan time of the day with a very quick 39.37 seconds. As run two approached light spots of rain threatened. This did not put off Andrew Miller who put in a scorching run to take him just below bogey and snatch fourth place. Joe Philip's knocked more time off and came in 0.55 seconds below target to take a well deserved first place.

Richard Turner had promised his dad that he would not beat his time since it was Fathers' day. He then proceeded to take second place knocking Peter into 3<sup>rd</sup> place. It remains to be seen if there will be another Turner double drive this season! As the Morgans finished their runs the light rain reappeared. A great days sport in good company.

**John Bevan**