

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2009

Event Report

Venue: Olivers Mount

Date: 3rd May 2009

Weather: Dry, warm, with late light shower

The 3 day Festival of Speed Weekend at Olivers Mount with the championship round taking place on the 2nd day offers competitors the chance to get a full day's practice before the big day.

This year, those taking this opportunity were Clive Glass, Chris and Michele Bailey and finally yours truly sharing with Jonathan in his debut season. Thanks to good weather throughout the day, times improved all round although I was soon regretting the offer of a double drive as Jonathan was close on my heels, finishing the day only 0.11 seconds behind me in 2nd place.

As Sunday dawned we were joined by Stuart Kellett, returning to the championship this year after a lengthy break, new recruit Tim Harrison and Stickerman aka Nigel Ledger Lomas sporting a brand new set of tyres.

With practice soon underway, those who had competed on Saturday were only permitted one run whilst others were permitted the usual 2 runs. Stuart Kellett failed to make it to the top of the hill on the first run, with suspicions of dirty fuel being the cause, while Stickerman was busy trying to scrub his tyres in by burning rubber at the hairpin.

With practice soon over, the 1st timed runs were eventful for many, Clive Glass selected the wrong gear at the Esses whilst Jonathan was also struggling with both missing gears and locking brakes at the Mere Hairpin although still recording an impressive time. Stuart had a heart stopping moment when his throttle stuck open but better news for Chris who managed a personal best by breaking the 55 second barrier, Stickerman recording his best time of the day and yours truly who managed to break the bogey.

Run 2 produced Clive's best time of the day, only 0.12 secs over bogey with further improvements also for Stuart, Tim, Chris and myself.

Run 3 brought another personal best for Michele with a time of 58.97, clearly all Chris' polishing over lunch had not been in vain, although when it was Chris' turn he failed to make Farm Bends and thankfully escaped with only a broken timing strut. Stuart found a further improvement but with a slight drizzle in the air, the later runners failed to improve.

By run 4, with the weather becoming increasingly damp, only 4 runners lined up but none improved, with Jonathan suffering terminal understeer at Mere Hairpin and requiring a 3 point turn to finish the course.

Final honours went to yours truly in 1st place, with Clive Glass in 2nd and new boy Jonathan in 3rd.

Simon Baines