

## **MSCC Techniques Speed Championship Prescott Hillclimb Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2009.**

Weather conditions: dry, overcast and warm.

Most of the competitors encountered fog on route to the event but when we all arrived at Prescott, the conditions cleared and it promised to become a lovely autumn morning, with the crimson and yellow colours of the trees punctuating the beautiful hills surrounding the course.

We were 21 Morgans and 23 drivers. Absent from proceedings were John Bevan due to an administrative mix up over his MSA Speed Licence following his ARDS Test at Castle Combe. Two other victims of Castle Combe but for a totally different reason, were Peter and Richard Turner. Say no more!

We lined up for first practice. Several drivers complained of little grip, including Rob Toon who under-steered over the edge at Semi Circle (someone told him, it could be taken flat in third!). He eventually came to a sudden halt against a hedge with luckily no serious damage to car or driver.

Liz Burry was alarmed at the degree of tyre squeal coming from husband Paul's +8. Mike Hughes was already under bogey and Clive Hall, Joe Phillips, Greg Dixon-Smith and Ray Eatock were getting close. Tim Harrison was also going well in the oldest Morgan present – a 1937 Series 1 (albeit fitted with a modern 2 litre engine).

Second practice – Roy Wilkinson had a “tank-slapper” coming out of Ettore's and so cruised up the hill to complete his run. Now, Joe Phillips also was under bogey and most other drivers were improving including Chris Bailey who was nursing a heavily bandaged right hand, following a tree cutting accident (– or his hand in the till?).

Lunchtime saw some wonderful Bugattis and other classic marques doing demonstration runs up the hill accompanied by commentary from someone who, according to Michele Bailey, sounded like “Jim” in the Vicar of Dibley. Also present were a formidable array of Daleks collecting money for charity, one of which was occupied by Karena Carden.

So to the timed runs. Rob Toon took the lead on handicap followed closely by Joe Phillips and Greg Dixon-Smith, all breaking bogey on their first climb. Clive Hall and Simon Baines were both less than half a second off. Simon's time of 49.02 being the fastest so far and gave him a light grip on the Prescott Cup.

The final runs saw most drivers improve including Karena who was best lady. It proved an incredibly close contest for the three podium positions with just four hundredths of a second between the winner (Joe Phillips) and third place (Rob Toon) with second place Greg Dixon-Smith missing out by just one hundredth of a second. The only other driver to beat bogey was yours truly with a stunning (!) last run of 48.89 seconds, thus wresting the Prescott Cup from Simon.

All in all, “A GRAND DAY OUT”!

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