

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Shelsley Walsh – Sunday 20th September 2009

An Indian Summer was with us, no early morning mist a few fluffy clouds and warm temperatures, the perfect September day.

Gathering in the Worcestershire hillside, filing into the paddock sheds were the early riser Morgan entrants some still sleepy eyed from their previous days excursions to the Sussex Goodwood Revival Festival, others early start to the venue from distant counties and those who were partying for a whole three days escape from Ripley.

A prompt walk of the steep 1000 yard/914m course, min width 12 ft/3.66m with a height rise of 328ft /100m opened the lungs, on descent, glorious views and the wonderful aroma of a kitchen in full swing with breakfasts. Deep discussions with the Wise Men, Philip Tisdall, Simon Baines and Gregor Dixon-Smith on this very fast and interesting hill. Starting tactics, the lines suggested to take every benefit from their vast experience, all worth seconds to be gained on doing it the right way.

At Shelsley drivers choose practice batch and as Scrutineers moved through the vehicles drivers were relieved to book in the two practice runs of choice. Unfortunately car 76 Sticker Licker/Badge Barron/king of advertising Nigel Ledger-Lomas was requested to uphold the current advertising regulations for Cigarettes by covering up all tobacco advertising on his car with a strip of black tape (you could still see the adverts) woe be tide the new threatened ban of advertising alcohol if legislation goes through.

Car 64, Martin Whaley, had the menace of an earth strap to the alternator broken - Morgan Supermen to the rescue with emergency resuscitation soon had him back up and running ready for the event.

Practise runs were good and times indicated the two runs would provide high expectations for points to improve as the track warmed in the late summer sun.

A break for lunch, more information exchanged on how best to tackle the various stages of this course and a table, courtesy of Philip and Sue Tisdall, spread with a selection of cake treats home baked by Sue and appreciated by all. Bring on the recipe book Sue.

In conversation with a visitor Clive Glass proudly showing his +8 to a lady and her two sons. The boys who on hearing the words +8 decided that as they were 9 they too could own and drive this car as they were old enough, Clive suggested the lady purchased two - one each for these Morgan enthusiasts.

First timed laps went well and incident free for the Morgans but short delay when one of the single seater cars took time for sightseeing away from the track. Even longer delay before the second runs when a TVR decided to entertain the spectators at Crossing, no injuries just bruised ego and a bent exhaust. Exceptional speed was made by some on the final burst through the chequered flag with explanations of brake locking!

The TVR causing a road block at "Crossing" was eventually brought back down by the recovery lorry and deposited in the middle of the paddock area. How impressive and noticeable was the assistance of the Morgan drivers who came to the aid, jacked up the car, for inspection, pull all the rubbish out from underneath and later on driver was able to rejoin the event and have one run gaining valuable points for what is now close to the end of the year. Friendship, support and fun all go with being in MSCC.

Three drivers beat their target times Paul Bryan by -1.35 taking second position, Gregor Dixon-Smith by -0.87 taking third position and Rob Toon, a positive flying finish in the 3.5litre Plus 8, -1.43 a well earned first. Greg Parnell tried a grass shortcut that didn't work and Philip Parkes was "Handbagged" but we know this will not last. Well done everyone.

Report by "A pair of Parkes".