

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Venue: Teesside Autodrome

Date: 25th May 2009

Weather: Officially 'Cracking the Flags'

No excuses for anyone this time – other than trying to claim too much heat impacts on engine performance and handling.....

Eight hardy souls (or lucky so and so's) took to the wilds of Middlesbrough and enjoyed a fabulous day's racing. Sombre news was relayed concerning Lord Unstones' unscheduled 'off' on his way home from the Gawsworth Hall Bank Holiday classic car day and the resultant damage to H2ORLS. Cornettos were metaphorically raised in tribute (the circuit café had none...). However, as His Lordship rightly noted, no one was injured and the insurance will cover the re-build, but it's putting paid to his sprinting for the foreseeable future. There is no truth in the rumour that someone had asked 'how did he notice the damage'....

From the off John Hyphen Stephens went below bogey in first practice, with fast times also posted by Chris Martin in Granville's +4, with Granville himself setting some fast runs and finishing up in 4th place overall, with Chris in 3rd. Tim Harrison, set us a poser about his class now he's fitted a new cam but, sporting as ever, we all agreed to put him in Class 7, unless he started to do well in which case he'd be shunted off to Class 10!!! In fact over the day, his progress was impressive, gradually chipping the odd 2 or 3 seconds off per run to finish 7th.

As the day progressed and the times began to tumble, occasional 'greengrass' moments were posted by John, Tim and Michele; John's hidden from view in the Essess, Tim's at the first chicane - a glorious 360 (surely a contender for the Lord Unstone Award), and Michele's an elegant 180 on the back chicane when she looked set for her fastest time. As it was she improved almost every run out, as did Chris, finally finishing in an excellent 2nd place only 1.22 over bogey.

Brian Lee had a series of good runs, and he and I were nip and tuck through the day, with my time of 110.84 just over one tenth of a second closer to bogey at the end of play to take 5th place.

Did I mention John Hyphen Stephens? Needless to say he won, the Class 2 bogey is now lower by 0.66 of a second, and he takes home another 11 points. New handicapping rules are being considered to remove one of his wheels each time he comes within a second of bogey..... In all seriousness though, John just seems able to turn it on in a very accomplished way on each run – a fine driver.

So here's looking forward to Elvington and Harewood – let battle recommence!!!!

Clive Glass