

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Venue: Ty Croes

Date: 6th September 2009

Weather: Windy – as in really, really windy!!!

There are times when you wish you simply hadn't bothered to get out of bed. Jon Shanly had one of those days on the non-championship day on Saturday. Unfortunately, having slept in the tow car overnight, he also had one of those days on Sunday.....

Saturday. Four hardy souls – Chris and Michele Bailey, Jon and yours truly. Poor Dave Simpson can't come – has an appointment with his Portuguese dentist. Either his dentist is so wealthy that he only needs to come back to the UK for the odd filling, or Dave earns so much from tyres he can afford to fly him back!!! Jon arrives having spent half an hour rummaging in the motorway undergrowth for his sidescreen, which decided to part company with the car at something approaching 80mph (or 70 if you are reading this and have anything to do with blue lights, helmets and truncheons). He then proceeds to try to get his car off the trailer but only has a key to unpadlock one of the ramps. At this point most people would be thinking 'this probably isn't my day', but nevertheless Trojan Jon borrows a couple of wooden blocks and off comes the car. We head off to practice. But not Jon - the keys for the Morgan have been spirited away by the race gremlins.....

Keys eventually found, we all have a lovely day. Chris wins on handicap and we all go home happy.

Sunday. The arrival of the Baines contingent!!! Both Chris and Jon are beaming after their academic results – Chris is now off to Sixth Form and Jon to teacher training in Cumbria, and we wish them both well in their endeavours!!! Sadly, no Roger Williams – we wish him well. Simon has his practice and then on first timed run beats bogey. The rest of us mutter 'this probably isn't my day', but nevertheless settle down to a days racing.

But not Jon..... as we line up for second timed runs he approaches me sheepishly requesting an allen key, with the plaintive cry "my gear lever's come off". At this point even the gods are screaming down that this is probably not his day, but in true Morganeering fashion, off he goes to the paddock, allen key found, and away we go.

After second runs Judy 'Indiana' Glass arrives, dishevelled and knackered, having decided to walk to the circuit from the hotel. Isn't it amazing how a few miles (as the crow flies) is actually nearer 15 when you have to follow the coast..... Chris Bailey is gradually knocking seconds off and ends up 0.78 off bogey ending up finishing second, but not without first having his first spin ever!!!! Michele and Jon race nip and tuck with Jon eventually coming out in front by less than a second, and after Simon's advice and tyre fettling, I improve by 2 seconds to finish third. Needless to say Simon won, ending up almost two seconds under the previous best time.

John B--y Stephens now has a challenger for the moniker!!!!

After the third timed run, and true to Ty Croes standards, the heavens opened and we all reconstructed our cars under whatever cover we could find and the event was abandoned!! The Famous Five trundled off home wet but happy. God knows what happened to Timmy.....

Clive Glass