

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship Wiscombe Park 5 September 2009

Wiscombe Park is that quintessential country house park set deep in a secluded Devonshire valley and the summer residence of the Chichester Family. The hill is around 1000yds in length, which I have always found difficult to master. It features two hairpins, a sweeping Esses section and a leap which sees the cars going very light on the suspension just prior to slamming on the brakes to negotiate the fearsome ninety degree right handed bend through the old gateway. Most of the hill runs through a cover of trees and non-forgiving banks. After rain the surface can be very slippery going.

With a forecast of dry conditions and some sun, it was a surprise to find a very damp and rainy day when leaving my 4 star Travel Lodge. Altogether five Morgans arrived to take up the challenge of the hill, all grouped together in the car park apart for yours truly who having ticked the wrong box found myself in the wrong section and surrounded by tin tops! It was obvious on walking the hill that surface conditions were going to be tricky. Although the rain had stopped it continued sporadically during the day with the result that proceedings were regularly held up by 'offs'. It was a matter of whoops there goes another one! By lunchtime, with the programme running late, the Clerk of the Course was pulling his hair out and pleading for competitors to take it easy.

However, all took the first practice run steadily, particularly John Holmes in his Aero. A brave man with all that power, a narrow track to negotiate and a wide car. Following the second run it seemed that discretion was still the better part of valour with four of the five Morgan competitors unwilling to improve on their first practice times.

Weather conditions improved following the shortened lunch break. Paul Bryan took 11.65 seconds off his second practice run and Peter Turner managed to reduce his by 8.87. The last timed run of the day saw Tim Ayres with the FTD (the Morgan section that is) of 51.15. Yours truly after much meditation while queuing up for the start of the last run and running through every corner, braking point and bump in my mind, managed to add a second on to my first run time! One of these days I will get the hang of it.

After much mental arithmetic and head scratching, Brenda worked out that Peter Turner had come out on top with Paul Bryan a close second and Tim Ayres third. A good time had by all. Pleasant company, a superb venue and a Morgan to drive home. What more could you want.

John Cocks 09.09.09