

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Thunderbirds are... Chaps? Still there?

Venue: Aintree

Date: 26th June 2010

Weather: a mite warm

Stage direction: Cue *Thunderbirds* music. Dum-de-de-dum de-de-de-de-de-de-dum. Dum-de-de-dum...

Pigeon 1: Roger, roger Colonel. Flying low over parc ferme, over.

Colonel: Roger. What is your visual, over?

Pigeon 1: Several Morgans, over, approximately 18 in a range of colour, over.

Colonel: Any movement, over?

Pigeon 1: Moving out for first practice, over. Streamline and orderly, over.

Colonel: Prepare to take action, over. Remember, they are only aware of the Swifts, over.

Pigeon 1: Roger over and out.

First practice came and went where some got exceptionally close to their bogey times while others played safe, except...

Pigeon 1: First two have set off, over.

Colonel: Roger that. Prepare for first dive, over.

Pigeon 2: Aiming for blue Morgan, over. Target sighted and in position, over.

Colonel: Steady now, over.

Pigeon 2: Target on course and heading towards Village Corner, over.

Colonel: Dive, dive, dive!

Second practice saw Simon Moore beat his bogey. Not bad for a car fresh from an engine, gearbox and differential rebuild. Most Morganeers were quicker, especially Simon Baines who came very close to bogey. Unfortunately, Granville Martin began to experience fuel starvation problems along Valentine's Way meaning Chris did not get the opportunity to run. Indeed, this did seem to hinder them throughout the day, although the pair was able to record quicker times during the first and second timed runs.

Pigeon 2: First timed run, Colonel.

Colonel: Hold on to your feathers, anything can happen.

Pigeon 1: Crikey! It's David Frow. He's spinning at County Corner, over.

Colonel: Don't get too excited. This is a job for International Rescue.

Pigeon 2: Brainy! What's your visual on Brian Lee?

Pigeon 1: 60.61, which is a second quicker. FAB. Hey, these guys are quicker too:

Nigel Housley, Tim Harrison and Nigel Ledger Lomas. What's happening to them?

Pigeon 2: There's Michele Bailey.

Colonel: Watch your eardrums, she's about to take off.

Pigeon 1: Why, she's quicker too. FAB.

While halfway Championship leader, Chris Bailey tucked into more valium fuelled sandwiches during lunch, Tim and Jane Hill, fresh from New Zealand came across to say hello and support the Speedsters. Jane's broly dolly duty was most welcome when a long hold-up put a stop to the second timed runs. Once resumed the Martins and Richard Smith went quicker while quite a few, drowsy in the heat slowed down.

Pigeon 1: Why, there's Scarlet Bailey.

Colonel: Steady, he's had far too much sugar. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1...blast off!

Pigeon 1: It looks fast, Colonel. Yippee! Capital Scarlet!

Colonel: Steady man, steady. Control tower, prepare to launch Sting Ray.

Pigeon 2: Sting Ray launched and away, over.

Pigeon 1: Why, he can fly through the sky! He's beaten his target time, Colonel by quite a margin.

Colonel: FAB.

Jonathan Baines produced his best time in the third run, less than a second away from bogey. Equally, Maurice Dempsey also sliced away time from his previous runs to leave him with his best time of the day. The fourth and final session saw a number of last minute charges.

Pigeon 1: It's Baines, Colonel. He's crazy going at that speed – so much energy.

Pigeon 2: Yet not quite there. They all seem to be going slower. What shall we do, Colonel?

Colonel: This is a Red Alert. This is a Red Alert.

Pigeon 1: And this is an apple. What's a lert?

Colonel: Quiet man. I can't understand it, Gavin Rintoul has just posted his quickest timed run but it's still slower than second practice. Call International Rescue.

Pigeon 1: FAB. Visual on David Frow shows he is quicker, Colonel.

Colonel: Never mind, this is a full scale emergency. Commence battle sequence.

Pigeon 1: All units on standby, Colonel. Oh, and Simon Moore has just shaved away seconds off his time. It's close, Colonel. How big is a lert?

Colonel: Increase the power. Start firing sequence.

Pigeon 2: This is Control Tower. Lights are green for Clive Glass, Colonel.

Colonel: It all hinges on this man. Standby. Blast off!

In the interest of world peace, Clive dutifully obliged, put his foot down and threw away half a second. Thunderbirds were not so, 'go.'

Overall, the roaring Sting Ray Eatock was first, super Simon Moore was second and slick Simon Baines was third. Well, that takes care of that.

Ron 1: This is the voice of the Piston Rons. We know that you can hear us, Speedsters.

Colonel: You're too late. FAB.

Stage direction: End *Thunderbirds* music. Have a cup of tea. Maybe some cake.

Author: Who else?

Sources: Gerry Anderson; ITC Entertainment Group.