

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Venue: Castle Combe
Date: 16th October 2010
Weather: DRY!! (Mainly) Cold ...very!! Sunny ...Often

The very last event of 2010 and still some key class places to fight for. The day started bright and chilly as a complement of eleven Morgans joined a mixed entry list of one hundred and twenty cars all game on and ready to go.

Dangerous Dave appeared with his new toy, the ex Daniel Lee lightweight and confessed to being a little nervous as to how he would cope with the change of style.

Jim (the new age traveller) Mountain pitched up in the love shack tow van complete with bespoke fold up computer desk.

Paul Bryan had ignored the scribe's regular weather reports and elected to run 1A's in the hope of a wet day.

The scribe was trying to fathom out where a blowing head gasket was coming from as there was no loss of water or evidence of emulsion in the oil.

As the scrutineer worked his way down the line Mrs Eatock took me to one side and confided that "Head and Shoulders" Eatock had indulged in a tattoo that read "champion" on an undisclosed part of his anatomy. She also mentioned that on cold days it just read Chin!

The Miller band wagon, pit crew and catering unit rolled into town and set up camp with military precision. We were all wound up and ready to play.

After an extensive drivers briefing we had a two lap practice which proved interesting. Combe is challenging on every level, it's fast,actually, it's very fast, bumpy, technical and dangerous for the unwary. Several were caught out, no one hurt but a few bumps and scrapes. The Morgan boys came through unscathed and were quick to critique their own performances, eager to discuss areas where they could improve and willing to hand out help and advice for playmates, typical.

For those Morgan drivers considering putting their toe into the competition arena this paddock could not have been a better representation of what it's all about. A broad spectrum of cars, closely fought competition, fantastic camaradie and a huge amount of bull effluent! Don't miss out, come and join us next season.

Some of the first timed runs took place before lunch by which time there had been a good deal of hanging around in the cold. The Miller canteen opened for business with a spread that covered a third of the paddock! Greg D-S had ten minutes shut eye, Greg Parnell mastered the use of a pressure gauge and dropped his tyre pressures by a pound all round and a heated discussion broke out over the peculiar ride height of Ian Hargrave's low line that had developed a marked list to port. "The boys" then took to the track at around one thirty. Simon Baines was easily the fastest man on the track with a clinical 85.97. Jonno claimed it was just beginners luck and followed father with an 87.96, good but no cigar.

Jim emerged from the love shack with a look of grim determination, took the immaculate 4/4 to task and delivered 97.47 which was a hint under his target time of 97.55. The new Mrs Miller was not present as her husband Andrew Miller confidently slipped under bogey with a 96.88 indicating that there was more to come.

Paul Bryan and I had one of those surreal moments. Paul Bryan had left the line like a stabbed rat in his 200 brake horse power 4/4 and broke the beam with a 97.94. We both thought we had really nailed it only to see that we had gone slower than practice. Where did we get it wrong? Close diagnosis, mutual appreciation and therapy produced no definitive results so I took advice from Tim Ayres, took a brave pill and changed the shocker settings.

There was lots of time to consider the next lap.....lots of time. Eventually we were called to order and off we went. Greg D-S dug deep and was rewarded with a time 0.09 under bogey! It doesn't get tighter than that and it netted him third place and nine points. "Head and shoulders" Eatock confirmed his position as 2010 Champeen and cleared the dandruff with a sub bogey time of 96.27 that garnered second position. First overall was justifiably reserved by Andrew Miller who was super smooth and 2.74 seconds under bogey gaining eleven points and the final win of the season.

A great end to a great season. See you all next year.

Toony