

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2010

Event Report

Venue: Curborough

Date: 25th April 2010

Weather: Dry and warm

Curborough may be regarded as a short sprint circuit by comparison to some of the circuits on the calendar but it always attracts a sizeable turnout from the Speedmoggers. In fact some of our drivers are so keen to take part that they arrive a day early in anticipation. Such was the case on this occasion when a certain gentleman reporting to the name Glass was observed to be rattling the gate at 8:00 on Saturday morning. A hasty check at his tee shirt – I knew that putting the event dates on the back was a good idea – reminded him that the event was in fact on the Sunday!

And so to Sunday and 14 drivers lined up in the paddock, sadly missing were Greg Parnell suffering electrical gremlins with his GTN and Richard Smith suffering mechanical gremlins after Croft. A new arrival, or so we thought, as Nigel Ledger Lomas rolled in the paddock, the car now stickerless, was this an attempt to save weight? In fact the car had had a winter of TLC and was now resplendent in a two tone green and ivory.

First practice is intended as an opportunity to explore the grip levels without going for a fast one but no one told Ray Eatock this as he was only half a second over bogey with Chris Bailey not far behind. Jim Mountain was struggling for gears as he left the line whilst others were finding it less grippy than normal, or at least that was their excuse.

Second practice saw improvements throughout the field, Ray Eatock now within touching distance of the bogey, closely followed by Chris Bailey who, whilst only a fraction slower despite a moment at the Molehill, showed what was possible. Nigel LL was seen trying another tactic to slow the late runners by dropping coolant at the hairpin, but the resultant line of cement dust marked a perfect line on the exit of the corner for others to follow.

First away after lunch on his first timed run was Ray Eatock, recording his fastest time of the day and breaking the bogey by 0.28 secs. After much polishing meanwhile, Chris Bailey was another to record his fastest time as were several others, Messrs Whaley, Simpson, the Parkes' and Rintoul to name but a few.

The second timed runs saw improvements for Maurice Dempsey and Early Starter Clive Glass whilst the remainder of the pack including Brian Lee, Michele Bailey, Nigel LL, Jim Mountain and yours truly left it to the final run of the day to produce their best.

As we packed everything away and the much threatened rain finally arrived, awards were presented to the top 3, Ray Eatock in 1st, Chris Bailey in 2nd and Jim Mountain in 3rd.