

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Date: 7th August 2010

VENUE: Goodwood

Weather: Very wet at first, Cold, Windy, Overcast with occasional showers

Goodwood was going to be about the weather, the track is unforgiving and fast at the best of times but the high speed nature of the track punishes the foolhardy in the wet. So having tried to sleep through the torrential rain the night before and driven through the light showers we all turned up early whereupon we were pleased to see the track was the inevitable damp/wet. The racing line was generally damp giving way to standing pools of water at crucial areas of the track. Lavant and St Marys for instance.

Both 2008 and 2009 were almost complete wash-outs and we were all hoping our entry fee was not going to be wasted. Luckily 2010 saw all the Mogs in the same class for the first time, which at least meant we were all likely to suffer the same weather conditions, rather than the class/time of day lottery of previous years.

After signing on and the drivers brief (noting that missing the brief now attracts a £150 fine!!) we all wondered when would be best to get out for our first practice run.... go in the wet early and learn the feel in what could be the prevailing conditions of the day. Or take advantage of the random order practice and hold off for a drying track to get a quick time in practice.... well, betting on the English weather is never a sure thing.

Several Mog competitors tip toed out onto the track early and inevitably came back with stories of wet apex's and standing pools of water... the track was drying though and following tales of woe the remainder of the field loitered to get in at the tail end of the practice where upon the driving line was becoming dry.

Due to this split nature the times were a bit mixed although importantly everybody made it round without incident.

Early leaders from practice were Paul Bryan and Paul Burry.

Over lunch everybody tucked into food... at least when they weren't looking to the skies attempting to tell the fortune of the clouds... well I for one swore I saw a dragon... oh well.

After lunch, timed runs started in earnest, with a level of management that had not been present in the morning. Now conditions were likely to be about as good as they were going to get, despite the continual ominous grey clouds there had not been rain for about 2 hrs giving the track time to be

blown dry. Everybody wanted to get out on track as soon as possible to at least get a time on the board that could count for something. If the heavens opened these were clearly going to be the deciding times of the day, we all knew they had to count. Unfortunately this was not assisted by the fact that the Morgan class was the last of the grid, the apprehension and stress of timing was clear around the paddock.

It seems everybody dusted off their racing shoes for the first run, times tumbled all over the place where the whole field capitalised on the weather window. Everybody satisfied that they had pushed for a satisfactory result. Unfortunately, and characteristically for this season it seems, no bogies were broken and so Brenda had to do some swift calculations to sort out the standing order of the field.

Well gauntlets were thrown and it was down to the rest of the field to pick them up and “just do it”... well the weather once again was to play its part. The organisers had been passed information from the Airfield control tower that Rain was already on their radar and that given the wind-speed it was going to be over the track by about 4pm. Well that was not going to help, was it!

Again as the Mogs were running “Tail end Charlie” it was going to be close cut. It takes about an hour to get through the field and so the Mogs were going to be on the start line as the rain came over ☹.

Well we mentally urged the field to get onto the start line quicker so we would miss the rain. Cars were fully stripped to the max and any potential to put in better time depended on the weather staying away. Luckily as we rolled up we could see the rain in the distance but it was not close yet. All the Morgans made it round just in time for the rain to deluge the paddock as people were packing up. Unfortunately it meant that we all missed the prize giving and the Morgans having to make do with their own awards. Paul’s cheeky kiss of the trophy girl was protested by the photographer as it happened to be his daughter...lol... well, he did come first after all 😊

Final Places were Paul Bryan 1st, Andrew Miller 2nd and Paul Burry 3rd.

A good day was had by all and everybody made away in one piece.

Andrew & Anne Miller