

MSCC TECHNIQUES SPEEDMOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Event: Harewood
Date: 6th June, 2010
Weather: Damp then wet then Very Wet then damp again

A leisurely start for one and a short drive to Harewood. Cold and grey but at least it was not raining. Thirteen more intrepid speed monkeys arrived ready. Plus one not so Dangerous Dave, having had a bad night and not appreciating the Yorkshire tradition of stuffing mattresses with straw, did his first practice and headed for a comfy bed. All the others got a first run under their belts. Steady was the name of the game as the grip was only a bit moderate, except for Chris Martin - always fast from the off - who managed to be within 1.34 of his bogey.

The talk back in the paddock was: did you get out of 2nd gear? How far did your wheels spin off the line? (Harewood liking to use oiled concrete as a take off point!) And can you brake without locking all 4 wheels?

Now tarmac is a funny substance. Being tar based, as the name suggests, when heated the tar comes to the surface and you gain grip. When the VSCC drip various vintage lubricants onto this warmed surface, they sit there. What you do not want, under any circumstances the following day, is rain!

Heading out for 2nd practice... it RAINED! Now imagine driving on ice with over inflated bald cross-ply tyres and you will get some idea of what it was like. Everyone's times went up and matching first practice, never mind bogey, was going to be a hard task.

A break for lunch, with it still persisting, saw all except Ray Eatock and yours truly, sheltering under canvas. John Stephens napped to the subtle tones from his stereo. But ever the professional, once the first timed runs were called, he removed it for weight saving.

All down to the start for the first timed runs. The system at Harewood is that they call you in number order, except if you prefer to do a Le Mans style run to the car and race to the line, as practiced by one of our group..... A good run by Gavin Rintoul, Brian Lee and Nigel Houseley all taking 2 seconds off their 2nd practice time. Mrs. Bailey taking nearly 6 off, with husband Chris recording his fastest time of the day, showed the rest of us that improvement might be forthcoming.

2nd timed runs: the rain easing up to just plain annoying from a bloody nuisance. Granville going better, pipped Chris by 0.04s in the battle of the Martins. With Dave Gibson and Lord Unstone starting to take time off as well, there was all to play for in the last timed run.

Hold on - why is Sticker Man packing up after getting faster all day? And being a bit of a rain maestro? Ah, it's because the duck tape holding his fire retardant race suit together has finally succumbed to the rain! New zip needed for Aintree!

Clive Glass left the best till last and put his quickest time in, as do I. Then a wait for the ever faithful Judy to produce the times with a surprise result at 6.34 seconds off bogey I won, but hold on there must be a mistake. A 77.22 gets fastest time of the day for a Morgan in a flatrad? It shows that things haven't improved that much since 1937 then. And what do you get for winning? Well firstly, you wait in the rain for a further half hour, as per MSA rules, to allow for protests. Then you get a nice glass tankard, which will hold the precise content of your rung out vest, and then to go home. (And once there, you can't make a big thing of it because you solemnly promised that morning that you would go steady!)

So its back to you John Stephens!

Signing off soggy but chuffed.

Tim