

## **MSCC Techniques Speed Championship**

Venue: Honington  
Date: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2010  
Weather: Sunny

For the first time this year I was glad of the MSA enforced driving gloves as I set off at 5:00am towards Honington Airfield on a frosty bright morning.

Honington is a functioning RAF site, albeit no longer regularly used by fixed-winged planes despite the incredibly long runway. It was therefore necessary to bring ID (such as a passport) to obtain an 'entry pass' before we could get past the armed guards at the gate!  
Note for next year: must leave earlier, to allow time for this.

The circuit, at one end of the runway using part of the perimeter road, is 2.8km and fairly fast throughout with a couple of tricky cone chicanes. The main tarmac had been swept for the event, so grip was excellent, although there were patches of loose gravel around off the racing line.

Most of the MSCC racers were at Silverstone, so there were only 3 Morgans participating in a field of just under 50 cars. The relatively low turnout meant that there were 3 timed runs as well as two practice sessions, which made this event excellent value for money at only £60.

Despite there only being 3 Morgans racing, there was intense competition between Jim Mountain and Paul Bryan. Paul got off to a good start, having been the only one of us who had managed to walk the circuit and hence knew exactly where he was going. I managed a "wrong route" on the first practice, which proves yet again how important that walk is! The stewards modified the cones after the first practice since quite a lot of us had managed to go wrong: it was certainly clearer after this. Then the real competition began. In the second practice there was only 0.07 seconds between Jim and Paul with Jim taking the lead. He managed to extend this to 1.84 seconds in the first timed run, where we all improved our times. In the second timed run Paul got the fastest time by 1.18 seconds as we all improved again. Finally in the third run Jim managed to get 0.21 seconds under Paul's best time for the fastest Morgan of the day. Both Paul and Jim managed to beat the calculated bogey times. I was still some way off, but had managed to improve by nearly 10 seconds from my first attempt.

We needed the sun cream, as it was a glorious sunny day, unusually with virtually no wind for an airfield. As the overall winning driver stated in his vote of thanks to the stewards and organisers at the end of the day, Honington is a wonderful event that we all wished we had known about before. I shall certainly aim to go back there again and hope more of you will be able to join us!

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