

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Oliver's Mount weekend
1 and 2 May 2010
Weather cold and variable

Oliver's Mount is on the outskirts of Scarborough on green and, usually, peaceful slopes of the Mount above the picturesque mere. It was built in 1946, and is the only natural 'road' circuit on the British mainland. It is famous for motorbike racing with the likes of B Sheene, M Hailwood, G Agostini, M Grant and C Fogerty having raced there. The memories of these famous five were joined by the 'Speedmog Seven' for 2 days of hillclimbing at this lovely location. Paul and Brenda Bryan were on their first ever trip to Scarborough, and had left on Thursday to make sure they did not miss it. Clive Glass arrived Friday, although this week it was intentional, unlike his early visit to Curborough the previous week.

Saturday proved very eventful for Paul; first practice he collected a cone at the Kink at the top of the hill; second practice he missed the cones but hit a bale causing slight damage. On his first timed run he heard a clunk as he rounded Mere Hairpin, but only after did he discover that it was his door closing, the cracking photographic evidence of the moment caught by Chris Baines is well worthy of a calendar spot.

Everybody else had an uneventful day, although Chris Bailey and Tim Harrison had a very close competition. Eventual results for the day (non-championship) were Chris beating Tim by 0.02 seconds and Simon Baines only 0.4 behind, with all 3 under bogey. Clive finished the day just under half a second outside bogey and Paul, now that he had the hang of the hill, was just over a second outside. Jonathan Baines wasn't far behind and I was propping them all up. We had a little prize giving ceremony to make the most of the podium, which was next to Speedmog Base Camp, and then adjourned to the seafront for the traditional fish and chip supper to round off a most enjoyable day.

After rather a cold night for the campers, we reconvened on Sunday full of enthusiasm. There were two more practice runs, the second of which had Tim and Chris both under bogey, Simon matching it, and Paul 0.1 outside, so it looked like we were in for an exciting afternoon's competition. First timed run saw Tim produce a terrific run 1.85 seconds under bogey; quite amazing when you consider his car doesn't even have seatbelts let alone a harness. I can't understand how he stays in it! Simon and Chris were again under bogey, with Paul and Clive getting close. Jonathan had gone under 50 seconds and I had beaten my best ever time on the hill. Then it rained. Chris was the only one to make a second timed run in the wet. Third and final runs by those of us who made them were still on a damp track, although it had stopped raining.

Final results for the championship round were 1 Tim Harrison, 2 Chris Bailey and 3 Simon Baines, all of whom were under bogey. Brenda then successfully negotiated a surreptitious swap of the trophies between Chris and Tim.

Well done to all and thanks to the 'MoGroupies' (you know who you are!) for their support, a most enjoyable weekend.

Michele Bailey