

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Ty Croes Weekend Sprint

Date: 4 / 5 September 2010
Weather: Wet Practice and Runs 1 & 2, Dry Run 3

For all but Jonathan Baines, this was a weekend of sprinting, with only the Sunday results contributing to the Speedmog championship. However a couple of Saturday's events must be mentioned since these contributed to the overall action.: The first was the naming of Ray's Rise (actually leading into Rocket) so named after "Rocket" Ray Eatock managed to spin there on each of his first THREE approaches. The second was the self-embalming of Lord Unstone and Hangover Harrison on Saturday evening during the Anglesey Beer Festival at Wylfa Power Station, the only place on the island to suffer a power cut!

Unfortunately, Sunday started with the disappointing news that Jonathan Shanly would not be able to run following a rough excursion at Ray's Rise on his last Saturday run, damaging his offside suspension. He must be wondering what he has to do to have an uneventful visit to Anglesey.

Although the morning started promising enough, with two sets of Speedmogger legs on early show, the fine drizzle that came and went all morning was sufficient to place covers over the exposed cockpits, but not so much that others joined me in the talking tent. With the track starting wetter than it had been throughout Saturday, everyone was cautious and posted slower times. Chatting with the startline officials regarding our vibrating timing strut (in it's temporary new location following *Rudolph's* recent RTA) left me starting my first run without tightening my harness shoulder straps. Fortunately there was plenty of time to sort that out on the first lap down the back straight. It was a good job Michele hadn't made the same error as she finished a spin at Ray's Rise having redistributed the tyre stack marking the apex and solving the timing strut vibration by folding it against the grille!

Following our early first runs came the announcement that the weather was due to deteriorate later so there would be a second run before lunch. Soon afterwards, Clive Glass folded away his red, *Italian umbrella*, the weather immediately improved and an early lunch stop was then announced.

With the heaviest precipitation falling just as we went out for our second timed run, it seemed that we were in for a typical Anglesey day. All but Richard Smith, who had one of his infamous incidents during his first run, posted even slower times for our second runs. Jono had a spin at Kirby Corner, but this was nothing to the pirouettes and salchos being expertly performed by Tim Harrison throughout the whole weekend; he managed the amazing feat of spinning at least once on every run.

With the ever-present breeze and a warm sun, available when it broke through the cloud, our last run was by far the driest of the whole weekend. As a result our final runs were the fastest of the two days with 7 of the 8 drivers knocking over 10 seconds off their previous times.

The results were that Rocket Ray, after his uncharacteristic start to the weekend, finished in usual fashion by beating bogey by over 4 seconds and probably securing the Speedmog championship (I haven't checked all the mathematical permutations yet). Simon Baines, like myself, dropped a spot from our Saturday placings to finish 2.03 and 1.05 seconds below bogey respectively.

Surely the biggest highlight of the event has to be the fantastic animation produced by Ray Eatock (he of Bertie Bassett fame) of the weekend, which is attached. Is there no end to this man's talents? He's Grrreat.

Chris Bailey