

MSCC TECHNIQUES SPEED CHAMPIONSHIP

The Woodbridge Sprint

16th May 2010

Venue

RAF Woodbridge, Suffolk

Organised by Borough 19 and Chelmsford M.C.

This event was new to the MSCC Speedmog Championship and the organisers had presented the rather low entry of three Morgan's with a challenging and rapid course to fully explore car and driver abilities.

The 2.94 km course consisted of two long straights broken by two slow chicanes on the outward run up to a fast right hand sweep to the return straights, which were again broken by two chicanes, and led into a tightening series of bends to the finish. We soon came to the conclusion that the way to a good time lay in the execution of the final bend complex, and being brave through the fast right hand sweep avoiding the bomb hole at the apex.

The Morgan entry consisted of Paul Bryan (class 7 4/4), Ian Hargrave (class 2 4/4 lowline) and Trevor Firmin (class 10 +8). With rain forecast for later in the day, everyone was keen to get on with it whilst conditions were dry and mild.

P1 was conducted in a cautionary manner by Ian and Trevor, whilst Paul set the pace at 100.17secs. P2 things got a bit more exciting, Paul getting down to 97.21, Trevor just behind at 97.32 and confident that there was still a lot more to come, Ian went 5.5 secs quicker than his P1 time and was confident there was another 3 secs at least to shave off.

As it was a new course, Paul worked out the bogey times, and it was all systems go for first timed runs before lunch. Running to form Paul; was fastest at 95.76 secs, immediately getting under his bogey time by 1.89, Ian went 3 secs faster than his P2 time, as he had predicted. Trevor demolished the second chicane wedging a cone under the car for the rest of the run and incurring a 5 secs penalty too boot, so all to play for after lunch.

Over lunch clouds formed and showers started to threaten, but luckily it stayed away for the rest of the afternoon, for us to complete another two timed runs in cooler conditions.

Paul did a slow (for him) 99.32 for reasons I have forgotten, but I'm sure they were good ones, Ian went a second slower and maintained the course was slower due to the changing and cooling weather conditions, Trevor got level with his best practice time having lost some confidence after the cone issue.

Onto the final run, the three of us were looking to improve. Paul did 97.21, Ian 105.48, and Trevor a greatly improved 94.97. So at the end it was very close on scratch and handicap, making it a very enjoyable day's motorsport for the three of us. Paul and Ian doing their best times in the morning, when the course did feel quicker, Trevor being pleased with his final run time, which was just not quite enough to beat Paul's fast 4/4 on handicap. Hopefully this event will be on the calendar next year, being very good value for money, well run and providing a fast challenging course.

Trevor Firmin (23.05.10)