

## MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Venue: Blyton Park  
Date: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2012  
Weather: Cloudy, breezy but dry

This was the very first MSA Event at this venue, so no-one had actually been there before. Given that this new venue was being run by the Midland Automobile Club, one naïvely thought it might be a little further south than North Lincolnshire!

There were 10 entries from the MSCC Speed Championship, although Andy and Anne Miller were unable to attend on the day bringing it down to just 8 including a welcome return to Sprinting for David Frow with his latest 4/4 Morgan. It had been appalling weather on Saturday, but Sunday turned out great with a stiff breeze but virtually no rain all day. Most of us had our windscreens off from the start: John Stephens succumbed too when he saw how fast the competition were going!

All of us thought this was just a brilliant circuit. Really grippy newly-laid tarmac just inspired confidence and it turned out that the corners could be taken at considerably higher speeds than had seemed possible when the track was walked. Everyone's times were well over a second faster for the 2<sup>nd</sup> practice. The plan was for 3 practice laps in the morning and 2 timed laps in the afternoon. We all agreed unanimously to run the MSCC competition with the more usual 2 practice laps and 3 timed laps (as we did at MIRA a few weeks earlier in similar circumstances).

David Frow's new car was not behaving itself, as it kept cutting out at 6,000 RPM. This meant that he did not feel he could be competitive, so he dropped out after the 1<sup>st</sup> timed run to take it home and hopefully get it fixed in time for Aintree. The rest of us each knocked at least another second off again, with John Stephens putting in a cracking time nearly 5 seconds faster to set the pace for the rest of the day. Unfortunately John blew his sump gasket in the process, so he too was out. We all hope he managed to get home before he ran out of oil...

So now the competition was on to see if Chris Bailey or Paul Bryan could beat John Stephen's "1.93 seconds below new bogey". By now we were all approaching the final corner very fast and were struggling to get round and across the finish line. Only Nigel Housley, Chris Bailey and I managed to improve on our first timed runs. The final run it was "go for broke". Both Paul Bryan and Chris Bailey improved, but it was not enough to knock off John Stephen's crown. I tried that bit too hard on the final corner and crossed the line backwards. This gave Michele Bailey another run and she made up an amazing 3 seconds to finish the day in style.

All of us thoroughly enjoyed the day and I think we would all return if the event is run again. It really is worth attending, even if one lives 4 hours away!

Ian Hargrave