

**MSCC Techniques Speed Championship**  
**Debden Sprint**  
**6<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

Four Morgans made the trip to a cold North Essex and we welcomed Tracy Gateson competing in her first ever motor sport event and in a very smart Duratec engined Plus 4.

Keeping warm was a priority throughout the day and although the snack wagon had no hot chocolate on offer there was shelter coffee and cookies in the Bryan camper van and as an added bonus during non driving time there was the rare and splendid sight of a short eared owl hunting over the adjacent field.

The hoped for dry weather did not materialise and by late morning there was spotting rain which continued on and off for the rest of the day but fortunately the Debden track offers a lot of grip and the rain had little effect on times.

In fact it was the cold tarmac which took the blame for times in all classes being a little down on last year. Certainly Trevor Firmin's new 'racing' tyres were never going to get as warm as he would have liked.

Also the finish line was moved back 30 metres or so to its pre 2011 position as the mountain of ballast dumped there by the Army had been mostly distributed around the former airfield which they now use as a training ground. Target times were going to be hard to reach.

Practice in the comparative dry had however looked promising but only Richard Smith was able to improve on his best practice time and would surely have done better with fewer detours from the course.

Despite the weather we all enjoyed a good days driving and it was good to see a very promising start by Tracy.

At the end it was the driver with local knowledge who won the day from Richard and Trevor and there was a useful 3 points for Tracy.

PB