

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Date **3 June 2012**
Event **Harewood**
Weather **Wet and cold ALL day**

It started wet and stayed wet, very wet. It was the long Diamond Jubilee Weekend, and long did it reign. It was a good job we had the Baines Bus and Harrison Hotel behind the paddock and the Bailey Bag behind the cars. Poor Gavin Rintoul, journeying from North Wales and back “home”, was quickly reminded of the Yorkshire weather he’s left, having camped overnight in it too.

Not even the Red Kites were venturing out and I don’t know whether it was the lack of flippers, but for once the normally well organised Morgan competitors were in total disarray! We are well known for arriving in good time and number order to holding areas – not today. The damp had obviously induced a bout of number dyslexia.

First practice had Morgans spread across 3 separate classes due to our disarray and it was Chris Bailey setting the fastest time overall and suggesting that we count the run and call it a day. However listening to Paddock Torque (yes Tony and Mary Oliver had dropped in on their way to organise the Donington Race Meeting) Chris decided to drop his tyre pressures for 2nd practice. A good job the rest of the Speedmoggers hadn’t listened as tank slappers, a squirm towards Ray’s Rail and a close look at Baines’ Bunker resulted in a slower time (when everyone else knocked off a second or more) and a hunt for the tyre pump.

An early lunch and the Morganeers found it difficult to leave the comfort of the paddock sanctuary and were starting to get a bad reputation! This time only Richard Smith and Brian Lee (by 0.02s) went slower than their practice runs – perhaps feet were becoming webbed? Second timed runs had the afore mentioned drivers set their fastest runs of the day.

Our final run and all Morgans run in correct number order for the first time in the day! With Simon Baines celebrating his birthday (apparently, according to “Junior”, only 8 more before he gets his bus pass) we wonder whether those buses will run as consistently as the 0.11s difference between his 3 qualifying runs. The Baines Beating Bailey Brownie proves it works best in wet conditions as not only is Michele Bailey the only driver to improve her time on every run but beats Jono on handicap. Sorry, that’s BEATS JONATHAN BAINES on handicap.

In the end it’s John B Stephens who collects a wine glass for some Chateauneuf-du-Pape and the only driver to get into single digit seconds over target. Chris Bailey a further 2.5 seconds over, who collects a cocktail tumbler and Richard Smith (desperate for an ice cream) 0.9s more at nearly 12 seconds over target gets a tumbler for his teeth.

Chris Bailey