

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2012

Event Report

Venue: Ty Croes International

Date: 6th May 2012

Weather: Warm, Damp 1st Run followed by Dry conditions

As a result of the retirement of the Millers on Saturday, 6 Morgans lined up for the Sunday, including Mike Hughes who was giving his recently re-engined "Tupperware special", its first outing of the season.

The International circuit at Ty Croes includes one of the most steeply banked hairpins in the calendar followed by the longest and possibly fastest bend – Church - of any track in the country. Due to the high terminal speeds rounding Church before braking hard into the tight left Rocket corner, everyone was taking 1st practice relatively carefully, although by the 2nd practice, everyone's times were improving significantly.

A brief rest to collect one's thoughts before the 1st timed run and a chance to decide how hard to push as it had now started to rain!!.

Luckily the rain was only a shower and it had only affected about half of the circuit but that did include the 2 hairpins so times would inevitably be slower. A short delay before the 2nd timed run allowed the track to dry after which, everyone showed considerable improvements.

Following a lunch break, the organisers announced that there could be another 4 timed runs so for some, thoughts turned to whether they would have enough petrol to last the day. On Run 3, everyone except Ray Eatock went slower and whilst waiting in the assembly area for Run 4, Mike Hughes' 4/4 started to misbehave so Mike retired the car. For others though, namely Simon Baines, Clive Glass and Gavin Rintoul, they posted their fastest times of the day.

Run 5, and now it was the turn of Jonathan Baines and Ray Eatock to post their fastest times, whilst Clive pushing ever harder, had a grassy moment at Seamans corner.

As the day progressed and other drivers in the paddock were either suffering mechanical problems or simply calling it a day, the breaks between runs were getting shorter and shorter. The "Baines boys" were now suffering a lack of front tyres and with an operation that an F1 team would have been proud of, ably assisted by Clive, they changed the 2 front tyres and re-fuelled the car in before Run 6. However Run 6 showed no improvements and with a timing fault for Simon, the day was brought to a close.

Final results were 1st place for Simon with Jonathan a close 2nd only 0.21 seconds behind with 3rd place going to Ray Eatock.

What a day's entertainment! 2 practice runs followed by 6 timed runs, a total of 16 track miles at an average speed of 65 – 75 mph, excellent weather, excellent organisation and great company. This venue remains firmly in place on the calendar for 2013.

Simon Baines