

MSCC TECHNIQUES SPEED CHAMPIONSHIP

Venue: Brands Hatch sprint
Date: 15th September 2013
Weather: Bright start becoming cloudy

An opportunity to sprint on the Brands Hatch Indy circuit is one that should not be missed and the entry list was full but there were only two Morgans present, the TR engined plus 4 of Paul Weldon and the 2 litre zetec powered 4/4 of Paul Bryan.

The format was for a morning only event as there was a circuit race meeting in the afternoon but despite the requirement of a 10 am start good organisation gave the opportunity of a two and a half lap practice and three one and a half lap competition runs before the deadline of 1.30.

The weather forecast was for a fine start but turning horrible and there was bright sunshine for practice and a fairly dry track with only patches of damp after overnight mist. There were no target times to chase as the Speed Championship had not competed at the track before and they had to be worked out from practice performances. Paul Weldon had raced on the circuit in the distant past and his memory bank served him well as he was the one who set the initial handicap pace.

The challenge of timed runs were upon us almost before we were ready – how late to brake before the blind downhill turn at the end of the Brabham straight - how little to ease off for the Surtees/McLaren bends..... Efforts seemed to be going in the right direction as on a now dry track both drivers were around 3 seconds inside their targets. Cloud was now building but the track was still good and with just enough time for a quick caffeine boost the second runs were quicker again - Paul B just having the edge with a further two second improvement. Paul W opted out of the third run as he had a long journey home in threatening weather and although Paul B's third run was a little slower his second effort had been enough to fly the Morgan flag with an open class win.

It was fortunate that the forecast rain held off until we had finished as we had been able to have a great mornings sport on this super circuit and it would be good to keep this event on the calendar and have a larger Morgan presence next year.

PB