

MSCC TECHNIQUES SPEED CHAMPIONSHIP

Venue: Loton Park
Date: 13th April 2013
Weather: very wet

It all started so well. A bright crisp morning with mist gave way to sunshine and a cloudless sky – to the extent that ‘Factor 15’ was witnessed in the paddock!!!! First practice for the eight competitors was something of a shock, trying to get to grips with driving in earnest after the winter layoff.

Needless to say, some people who shall remain nameless (Chris Bailey and John B Stephens) simply carried on where they left off last year, both within a second of bogey, whilst the rest of us did well simply to get to the end of the course. Well, I say the rest of us, but particular mention must go to Clive Hall for the straightest pair of skid marks at the top of the hill, which funnily enough started at the 25 metre marker board..... Now call me old-fashioned, but even I know 80mph into 25 meters doesn’t go, but somehow Clive kept things together and managed to get to the end. An early entrant for the Green Grass award??????

Paul Clark was suffering a bit from ‘stub axle malaise’ – that little known medical condition whereby a previous experience of no brakes and having a stub axle shear tends to reduce the neural input to the right foot, which the rains that started on cue immediately prior to the first timed run did little to improve. Indeed as the day progressed most began experiencing foot rot – its amazing how porous racing boots are.....

Alan Foster received the ‘travelled furthest to the meeting’ award, which consisted of an extra chocolate brownie from Michele, and then proceeded to tell us about his new variable rate dampers – perhaps a little insensitive given the conditions, but we listened politely nevertheless; what we would have given for any variation in the rate of the dampness, but the rain simply got worse.

Martyn and Paul developed hypothermia and opted out of the second run – there had been so many off’s through the day it was becoming more a question of whether things would finish before it got dark!!!

And so we think, in the end, John B Stephens won, with Chris B Bailey second. Hard to say as this was the first outing the patented Baines/Miller Bugerum method of points allocation, so John got 100 and Chris 99, with Alan scoring highest of the ‘big engines’ with 91.6. Still, the rest of us were happy - Michele and I scored 79 and 91 point respectively which is more than we’ve scored in total for all our previous seasons put together!!! Hoorah for innovation!!!

Roll on summer.....

Clive