

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2013

Event Report

Venue: Curborough

Date: 14th July 2013

Weather: Warm, sunny and dry.

The annual club sprint always proves popular and this year was no exception. Earlier in the year, the taster day had been cancelled due to a surplus of "white stuff" on the ground. However the weather could not have proved better for the club sprint day. Heat and a bright sun being the main features of the day. The drivers had elected to continue to make this a Morgan only event, resulted in 2 practice runs and no less than 5 competitive runs making up the day.

John Cocks was the only entry in Class 1 but this did not stop him pushing his 1968 Kent engine 4/4 with gusto. John set his best time on the second run, the heat of the afternoon proving too much to improve on his time. Class 2 (combined with 1 for awards) was as usual dominated by the venerable John Stephens. Johns fourth run proving enough to take the class from Ian Hargreave whose 4/4 will be off for a lap of the Nurburgring soon.

Class 3 and 4 were amalgamated for awards. Once again the fastest times were set before lunch. So perhaps the heat was taking its toll or alternatively Pam's excellent lunches were adding too much ballast! The amalgamated classes were eventually won by Paul Weldon in his beautiful 1961 +4 who managed to lop nearly two seconds off the class bogey time. Paul revealed in casual conversation over lunch a bit of a motorsport pedigree, which clearly helped! Second in class was Clive Hall, with novice Rob Stones in third. Completing the combined class was Nigel Housley who has been reported to be spending too much time recently enjoying race circuit hospitality!

Combined classes 5,6 and 7 saw a ferocious battle ensue between two shared driver cars. In the end Chris Martin proved class winner from Chris Bailey. Granville Martin ending in third place with Michelle Bailey in fourth. This was despite the Martin car having some technical maladies resulting in it only completing three timed runs. Martin Whaley completed the class line up.

A strong entry allows Class 9 to stand alone. The class was dominated by Gregor Dixon Smith in his "trials" spec car. Greg being the only other driver who managed to beat bogey during the day, and indeed on his last run. Second in class was the hard charging Clive "Doc" Glass in his standard Plus 8. Paul Bryan, Alan Foster and Jon Shanley also posting good time to complete the class.

The early withdrawal of the Baines clan due to mechanical issues meant the combined class 9 and 10 was down to four runners. Tim Harrison in his self prepared racing 2.3 4/4 eventually proving winner of the class from the hard charging Mike Meridith. Mike entertained the crowd with some lurid power slides controlled by furious twiddling of the wheel. Mike did however take the overall fastest time of day award. Tim Ayres and Paul Clarke completed the class with their usual spirited driving.

The Speedmog run off award came down to a fight between the five combined class winners. Fortunately Chris Martin was able to get his car going again after its earlier issues. Chris and John Stephens both beat their previous times but Chris was the better by 0.03 seconds, thus winning the run off. In third place was Greg Dixon-Smith with Tim Harrison and Paul Weldon completing the set.

Novice award went to the well deserved Rob Stones with Michelle Bailey taking ladies award.

Big thanks to all the volunteer organisers and marshals, together with the competitors, for making the day so enjoyable.

Phil Egginton