

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Venue: Shelsley Walsh
Date: Sunday 22nd September 2013
Weather: Fine and dry

This was a day for revelations!!!

Number one – it was dry and (relatively) bright and it did not rain, which for the September meet at Shelsley is almost unheard of.

Number two – fresh from his victory at Brands Hatch, Paul and Brenda had made the lengthy trip to Shelsley. When discussing the merits of making the effort to travel the equally distant journey to Brands, Brenda commented that she and Paul always go all the way!!!! Not noted for my subtlety, I of course made sure the comment was broadcast to all present, before I realised she meant the journey to the track.

Oops.....

Anyway, to the meeting;

It appeared a foregone conclusion. John B Stevens turns up, breaks bogey, and home we go, and after his first practice it certainly looked like that was the way things were heading, with John only 0.5 seconds over.

But no!! Clive Hall had been pacing around the paddock, keen to get under way (If he were a smoker he would have gone through a pack of 20!!!). He followed John up the hill, and was biting at John's heels with a +0.55 first practice, with Chris Bailey also only 0.6 seconds over. We were in for an interesting day.....

Second practice saw John go under bogey, with dark horse Rob Stones posting a creditable 40.26 against a 38.66 bogey. Martyn Whaley knocked almost 2 seconds off his first practice time, and Chris Bailey was only 0.33 over, with Clive Hall having a 'slippery' moment and not improving over first practice.

In the 'big engine group' Paul Bryan, Alan Foster and myself were having a good play, but struggled against an estimated bogey, and as none of us were on slicks we were finding the target 'challenging'!!!! In between knitting a pumpkin (don't ask....) Michele was also ticking along nicely.....

So, to the timed runs.

First run saw the times continue to tumble. John set out his stall at 0.15 over bogey, Clive Hall was only 0.68 over, and then Chris Bailey produced the run of the day to set a magnificent 38.94 to go 0.53 under!!!!

Final timed runs showed improvements for Rob, Martyn, Paul, Clive H, Alan and yours truly, but it was left to a Bailey yet again to record the (second) best result of the day, with Michele storming to a 41.47 and beating me by 0.35 seconds!!!! Her joy

in the paddock showed no bounds, but I felt getting the Red Arrows to do a fly past was just a tad over exuberant!!!! (only joking - it was Concorde....!!!!).

So a great day was had by all. Final mention however goes to our visitors on the day – it was a pleasure to see John Shanley, and we all hope he can return to sprinting in the not too distant future, but we were particularly pleased to see Margaret and Phil Parkes, with Margaret looking resplendent with her ‘silver fox’ coiffure as she continues to improve following her recent cancer treatment.

So a great day was had by all and, for those who missed Shelsley this year, you really missed a cracker!!!!!!

Clive Glass