

# MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2014

## Event Report

Venue: Croft

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2014

Weather: Cool, sunny and dry.

How time flies. As we drove into the paddock at Croft, it was hard to believe that we last visited this circuit in 2010, the respite being due to a tightening of noise regulations. The news that this event was back on the calendar was met with plenty of enthusiasm by the Speedmog crew as an entry of 9 championship drivers and 1 non championship driver lined up in the paddock. Notable returnees to the championship were David Gibson with his expertly prepared TR engined +4 and the Flying Postman – Gavin Rintoul in his +4.

New faces in the paddock were Martin McHugh and Robin Wright, both last seen at the “mini Taster” session after the Club Sprint and now raring to go “against the clock”.

After a brisk walk around the circuit with the new starters, practice was soon underway and for most of us, it was a steady run to get back into the swing of things. Chris Bailey however, was on a mission with a time over a second under bogey.

2<sup>nd</sup> practice showed improvements for almost everyone although Chris clocked a time over 6 seconds slower but this was later thought to be due to Chris creeping on the line.

With lunch approaching, the 1<sup>st</sup> timed runs produced significant gains for everyone, David Gibson now breaking bogey with Simon Baines now only 0.65 secs over bogey.

New boys Martyn and Robin were lopping great chunks off their time on every run whilst Rob Stones was quietly getting on with chasing the Class 3 record.

Michele and Gavin usually have their own battle for honours but today Michele was 12 seconds quicker as she recorded her fastest time of the day.

It was then revealed that Chris and Michel had both taken their ARDS test at the circuit only a few days before, showing that there is no substitute for track mileage.

After a well earned rest for lunch, battle resumed. For most, times continued to tumble, notable exceptions being the Bailey contingent – had they peaked too soon – and Rob Stones.

Once the top 12 Run Off had been completed there was time for one last run and Chris Bailey found another second on his previous best! – Simon B tipped below the bogey but it wasn't quite enough to catch David Gibson although the new scoring system showed it was closer than it first appeared.

As the final results were calculated, Chris Bailey had clearly come out on top, with David Gibson in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Simon Baines in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Rob Stones was 4<sup>th</sup> with Michele 5<sup>th</sup>, just ahead of Paul Clarke in 6<sup>th</sup>. The battle between the new boys was won by Martyn but again, there was little in it as both Robin and Gavin tied for 8<sup>th</sup> place.

What a great day, it was good to be back!

Simon Baines