

## **MSCC TECHNIQUES SPEED CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Venue:** Hethel Sprint  
**Date:** May 4<sup>th</sup> 2014  
**Weather:** Dry, cloudy start becoming sunny

It is a long way to Norfolk from Cheshire, around 230ish miles but I decided to enter the sprint at the famed Lotus test track, next to their factory, although it looked more like one of those new office blocks that promote business excellence.

So, on the Saturday before the sprint, I left our carpet shop in sunny Urmston (special offers available to Speedmog members) and trundled, (travelled) down the M6, A14 and eventually the A11 to Avalon Farm B&B and my bed. Rising at 5:45 (ooh) to get to Hethel for around 7am, as the scrutineer was due at 7:05, well that was what it said on the final instructions. Fortunately my Morgan had no trouble with the Scrutineer although a Nissan 350Z driver had a helmet out of date. It seems he didn't have fire retardant material for the cloth inside, so Speedmoggers, check your helmets. He was ok. He borrowed another from a friend.

Hethel is a twisty sprint, very twisty and very sprinty! It was built on old runways so has a few long straights but they are connected by lots of bends, chicanes or just cones in the middle of the track to slow the car down, some of these even I couldn't take flat! It has every type of bend you can imagine from ones that can be taken flat, to hairpins and to those bends that you think you can drive through fast and then realise you need to brake. You know the ones I mean, Richard!

All in all what I am trying to say is that the new Hethel is the best track I have EVER visited and even though it is a long way it is well worth the experience. The sprint was 2.7 miles long! That was one and a half laps!

The Morgans at the event amounted to .....two. John Stephens was put with the Saxos and Paul Bryan with bigger Japanese stuff, a Honda S2000 with loads of HP and Mazda RX7 with not much. Although Paul and I walked most of the track, well it was very long; we still drove the first practice carefully. I got 175.76secs and Paul 170.08secs. This made Paul Bryan's target 165.21.

Over the rest of the day we slowly chipped away at our times until on our final run I, (John Bloody Stephens) finished up with 165.16secs, 10.6secs under bogey and Paul Bryan finished up with 157.86secs, 7.35secs under bogey. All this with our windscreens in place as Paul reckoned the other competitors would get upset if we ran on aeroscreens. I even left the hood up so these times will be beatable if you enter next year and I seriously believe you should. Borough 19 organised the event very efficiently. It was good value at £85 and only a few miles from Snetterton.

I would like to thank Paul and Brenda Bryan for their excellent hospitality in their Campervan. Brenda makes a lovely cup of tea with her collapsible green kettle and they even let me use it as a changing room after the event. Thank you, this is the true spirit of a Speedmogger.

JBS.