

## MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

**Wiscombe Park, East Devon: 26/27<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

### Round 12

DRY, warm and mostly sunny

Contrary to some rumours, Devon is north of the English Channel and said Channel does **not** extend from the Severn Estuary to The Wash so no ferry crossing or passport is required.

This event is the annual "biggie" for Wiscombe and the highly competent Woolbridge Club. As I'm a Devonian and first spectated at this beautiful venue over half a century ago, my totally impartial view is that this is the best remaining hillclimb on the mainland. The 2.2k Porlock Toll Road would take my prime spot if it was still available, but sadly that is no longer the case. I say "mainland"; if you have been to the Isle of Man, the long Lhergy Frissell Hillclimb following the TT Course out of Ramsey is something else.

There were three events this weekend: a National 'A' MSA Hillclimb Championship event spanning the two days and two one-day National 'B' events, the Sunday being our Championship round. As MSCC was invited to both one-day events I took the opportunity to compete on both days - at £75 a shot, the entry fee must be the lowest in the country.

The downside of competing in the normal Blue Book classes is that Road-Going Specialist Production Cars usually means a mob of Locatafields, mostly arriving on trailers, so you do it for fun and try not to be last. On Saturday it was four Westfields, a rear-engined Sylva Riot (?) and my +8 so I was well satisfied with 3<sup>rd</sup> and plenty of practice for Sunday.

Poor Clive Hall is still having engine problems so had to scrub, leaving me on my tod in the Morgan Class. However, there was another member of the Morgan family present - Mike Hall, without his highly successful +8, but acting as one of the spannermen for son Will in the 3.5 litre Force WH.

Whether or not you like these highly sophisticated hillclimb cars is a matter of taste but in action they are spectacular by any standards. With a best 2.10 seconds off the line and over 100mph up Wis Straight, going light over Bunny's Leap and through the gate to the split in under 17 seconds leaves us lesser mortals wondering why we're here. Then through the Esses, right hand hairpin at Sawbench, 125mph up Castle Straight to finish the other side of the left hand Martini Hairpin in under 34 seconds (<http://www.wiscombepark.co.uk/the%20hill/the%20hill.htm> ).

In comparison, my best run was 2.66 off the line, 22.38 at the split 47.24 at the finish, still half a second short of my target based on Tim Ayres 1B tyres time. The track and weather conditions were very good so whether I shall ever make fewer mistakes on a climb and lower Tim's target is doubtful - he is younger and braver than me . . .

All in all, an excellent weekend's motorsport with a sociable barbecue in the paddock on Saturday evening. Conditions were so good that a number of class records were broken, including a lowering of the outright hill record - twice during the day - to be held jointly by Will Hall and Trevor Willis at 33.79, a shaving of 0.13 off Trevor's previous record. How they will share the FTD cup is their problem! Will won both Top Twelve Run-Offs so scored maximum points in the National Championship. I hate to think what he would achieve in his father's +8 . . .

So, date in the diary - 25/6<sup>th</sup> July 2015, make a long weekend of it at this glorious East Devon venue - be there, you won't regret it.

Alan Foster