

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Venue; Shelsley Walsh
Date: 21 September 2014
Weather: Glorious and cracking the flags

It was a beautiful September morning driving through the early mist to the oldest motor sport venue in the world, for the annual SpeedMog visit to Shelsley Walsh. When we arrived there were already 6 Morgans parked up, but no competitors to be seen; presumably they were off walking the hill? Well no they weren't; Alan had been competing at Shelsley the day before, Paul and Brenda were camping, and Clive had parked his car the previous night after racing at Thruxton, so they didn't need to be so early. Eventually everyone else arrived, other than Mike Hall, who was ill. We send our best wishes to him.

After the usual kerfuffle of allocating practice slots, batches 1, 2 and 3 were combined and the days' activities commenced. I was first up the hill in batch 1, and it seemed fine to me. Martyn complained of a lack of grip, and Clive was complaining of marbles on his tyres; presumably a hangover from Thruxton? Chris was only half a second over bogey, and was setting the mark for us all.

Rob had obviously listened to Chris and decided that applying some polish would assist in producing a faster time, so he and Julia set to before second practice. Nigel posted a time 4 seconds quicker than P1, with Ian almost 2 seconds faster. Brenda then reported that John B Stephens had recorded 36.10, which was 4 seconds below his target, and Chris almost had a heart attack! When this was mentioned to John he said it couldn't possibly be correct as he hadn't taken second practice yet!! Sighs of relief all round (well from Chris at least), and rather entertaining too. After P2 both JBS and Rob were 1.02 over bogey, and Chris had chipped off a little more. Almost everyone else was faster and we adjourned for lunch.

There was a parade of 5 Morgans up the hill during lunchtime, as MMC were raising funds for the Marfan trust. These included me leading, driving John Spencer's lovely Plus 4 Super Sport (now with stunning white hard top) for the first time; could this be my next race car?

After lunch the first timed runs produced fastest times for the day for Alan, Pa Housley, Ian and Paul. Chris also had his fastest run of the day and went 0.08 seconds under bogey. Everyone else was faster than P2, other than Robin who was a tad slower, but clearly enjoying himself.

The sun continued to shine, and the brownies were all eaten as we waited for the final run of the day. We were visited by the Parkes Dept and it was good to see them both looking so well. Chris decided I needed a 'pep' talk; words to the effect of 'flat all the way' were mentioned. Clive offered us all green tea with mint. Only John B and myself took up the offer. It worked! All 3 of us had our fastest runs of the day, but then so did Rob to pip John B to second place; the polish finally taking effect.

It was a fantastic day out in the sunshine. Final results were:

Chris
Rob
John B

Has Chris clinched the title or do we need to wait for Prescott and final event of the season?