

MSSC Techniques Speed Championship

Venue	Ty Croes – National Circuit
Date	6 th September 2014
Weather	Wet practice/dry timed runs

The day started miserably. No sooner had we all stripped the cars down to racing-snake trim, than the Heavens opened and we all had that heavy Ty Croes heart that comes from feeling that the bad weather would be with us for the day..... I say we'd all stripped car's, but one person had the sense to leave things in road trim - John B Stephens!!!!. Sadly Martin McHugh had come down for the weekend but only managed to get a reserve bay for the Saturday, and was unable to run, but we all enjoyed doing our own scrutineering of his car, and a fine beast it is too - more of which I'm sure you'll read about in Rob Stone's report of the Sunday sprint. Rob had bought access to a garage for the weekend, so with a little sleight of hand and repayment of used 'oncercs', we all piled in and managed to stay out of the worst of the weather. However, the sun gods for once chose to smile and soon after 9.00 the rain stopped and the weather started to brighten. As there is only one practice on the National circuit (over two laps) and as that was on a wet track we'll just ignore those times and move on to the rest of the day. Well, not quite, because one of our number, who will remain nameless (ROBIN WRIGHT!!!!) decided that two laps wasn't enough and realised a little late that you have to come into the pits after lap two, choosing instead to take out the pit marker cones and had to leave the track beyond the starter's hut.....

On the first run in the dry it was all back to normal. John B Stephens in 1st place, just over a second over bogey, with Simon Baines in second place 2.1 over. Robin took out the pit lane cones again..... needless to say the marshals were not impressed, but Robin has now been re-christened 'Two Cones', a moniker that I feel will stay with him for some years to come!!! With the organisers running a full grid, we were restricted to two timed runs. On Run 2, John and Simon both improved, locking out the first two positions with John ending up 0.63 over and Simon, 1.20 over, and Rob Stones taking third 4.48 over. I finished fourth but have the best excuse ever - having taken the car on a rolling road it would appear I've been running all season at 180bhp, rather than the 210 my car should be putting out, due to fuelling issues (for the technically minded I'm running a 16:1 mix which apparently is like having a car that's about as powerful as an asthmatic whippet!!!!) Still, off to John Eales next Monday so watch out Shelsley!!!

So after an inauspicious start, the day turned out lovely!!! Gavin's times continue to fall - I understand he's after a newer car for next season, 'Two Cones' put down a marker for the green-grass award, spinning at Ray's Rise, Rob realised how much door handles and locks really weigh, Simon showed us all his box of bits, and John B Stephens won again.

All in all, just a normal sprint day really!!!!

Clive Glass