

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Venue: Blyton Park

Date: 9th August, 2015

Weather: Sunny

This was the first time at Blyton Park on the two-lap course, which therefore meant a clean sheet for target times. The initial entry list consisted of 24 entrants, however a few more arrived as late entries. Morgans made up about third of total entry with 10 drivers on the day. The weather was bone dry, mostly sunny with occasional cloudy intervals.

The first practice runs were largely uneventful for all but the two Christophers, one of which got lost at the end of the first lap (Baines) and the other had a bonnet catch malfunction (Bailey). Second practice was an improvement on time for all, and through mathematical smokescreens it emerged that the target times were to be based on Simon Baines's 2nd practice time of 151.15 seconds

The first timed run happened before lunch, with slight improvements in time for most, bar Chris Baines's 360 degree excursion (although all four wheels remained on track) and Paul Clarke's impressive chicaneless time.

Post-lunch there were another four timed runs. The second timed run saw a drop in performance for many, the drop in track temperature the predicted reason for this as nobody had the cheek to blame the usual instalment of Michele Bailey's baking.

There were steady improvements for the two lans, both leaving after the third timed run to start the long journey back down south, with Hargrave in 8th place (179.09, +9.15) and Walker in 10th (165.43, +11.64).

At the end of the day, Simon Baines emerged as the winner (146.67, -4.48), setting the time on a rerun after a timing confusion. To the displeasure of all those attending, John Bloody Stephens was once again on fine form following some mechanical work to his Morgan, coming 2nd overall (166.07, -3.87). Chris Bailey had impressive consistency, with all but one of his timed runs within 0.33secs of each other, coming 3rd (164.63, -1.24). Chris Baines managed to bag 4th in between his scarier moments (150.59, -0.56) and Clive Glass was his regular self with regards to pace and humour and bagged fifth (152.43, +1.80). Paul Clarke was clearly getting to grips with his Roadster Lightweight with some competitive times, albeit occasionally pushing the Yokohama race tyres beyond their limits, finishing in 6th (155.69, +2.33). Paul Bryan was also setting repeatedly consistent times, finishing 7th (155.32, +4.69). Michele Bailey set her best time on her fourth timed run, coming 9th (176.11, +10.24). Most opted out of doing a fifth timed run.

A great day was had by all and there were no accidents or mechanical issues to report for any of the Morgan drivers, save for Clive Glass living up to his name and heritage by forcing entry through the window of his own tow-car having locked his keys inside. Thankfully, in true scouse tradition, he knew the tricks of the trade when it come to car crime and found his way in without doing any damage. He also provided a round of ice-cream for all Speedmoggers, which was very thoughtful, so we'll give him the benefit of the doubt and assume they were obtained legitimately.

Chris Baines.