

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Venue: Harewood
Date: 5 July 2015
Weather: overcast and warm

The SpeedMog contingent were 2 drivers down on the expected turnout at the annual outing to the famous Harewood Hillclimb between Harrogate and Leeds. Alan Foster had broken the diff on the Plus 8 on his way up from the South on Friday afternoon. I have no idea what a 'diff' actually is, but it must be important as Alan had to be trailered back home from Oxford. We hope that the car is repaired soon, and Alan is back competing. Martin was, according to reports, at a wedding. As we have met his wife and 2 sons at other events, I don't think it was his. We had 2 newbies to Harewood in Chris Baines, and Toony, and our usual 'interloper'; Jono Baines clearly misses the SpeedMog banter so much, that he parked his Formula Ford with us in the paddock.

First practice runs had Clive, Simon and Toony complaining about a lack of grip, presumably something to do with putting the power down in their highly powered cars? Chris Baines was taking it steady on his first run out in the Roadster, but the other Chris B wasn't, as he was leading the pack.

Second practice runs saw everyone going quicker, Baines jnr improving by over 6 seconds! Pa Housley was studying the print outs closely to see where I was gaining the time on him. Clive, as usual, was just enjoying himself.

First timed runs were delayed due to a run off between the British Hillclimb competitors, which was fortunate for us as it spotted with a bit of rain. Chris B senior (as in Bailey) continued to head the field, closely followed by Baines senior (as in Simon), with Baines junior (this is beginning to get confusing!) having a straight on moment at the bottom of the hill – presumably trying to knock another 6 seconds off!! Pa Housley posted his quickest time of the day, so studying the print outs had worked. Clive and John B went slightly slower and faster respectively.

By the time of our second timed run it was clear that it was also our final run, which was rather disappointing. John B Stephens posted his fastest time of the day to finish 4th. Baines snr was 0.21 slower than on his first run, and finished 3rd as Toony pulled out a blinder on his first trip to Harewood to pip Simon to second place by 0.01s. Chris Bailey finished where he started the day - at the top of the pile. Clive finished 5th with Baines junior 6th, only 2.76s behind his father, which is impressive. Although Pa was 0.02s quicker than me on scratch, with the Baines/Einstein formula being applied I didn't finish bottom of the pile (hooray for the Baines/Einstein formula).

It was a good day out, despite getting soaked on the way home.

A final mention of Jono, after his first timed run, those of us in the paddock definitely heard the commentator say that it was one of the drives of the day in his opinion. I know that in SpeedMog banter it didn't get relayed to Jono quite like that!

Final results were:

1. Chris Bailey
2. Rob Toon
3. Simon Baines

MB 13.07.15