

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Date: 5th October 2015

Venue: Prescott Hillclimb, The Grand Finale

The usual pre event banter started slightly earlier than normal as Prescott loomed in the calendar. Clearly this was going to be a battle till the end! Simon Baines had all but put his name on the trophy but the numerical savant Clive Hall had calculated that if SB had a *really* poor day and CH put in the performance of a lifetime it was still up for grabs. The scribe would have to go over a second quicker than ever before and using "end of season tyres" this was going to be a step too far. Chris (if its mine it's shiny) Bailey was also in with a shout so the top four slots were delicately balanced.

There is no finer place to be in October than the Bugatti Clubs Autumn Spectacular. Displays of steam cars, hot rods, jugglers on stilts, and even a genuine Wall of Death were to be seen all supported by the sound of Rock and Roll and several thousand spectators. The sun shone and fourteen Morgans occupied the top paddock accompanied by their motley owners!

The chief scrutineer asked for an element of sensibility during practice following the activities of five Porsches who visited the scenery the previous day and slowed down proceedings. Needless to say we all behaved impeccably testing out the level of grip, checking for damp spots under the trees and generally getting our eye in. Your scribe was closest to bogey but still needed to find two seconds to be in the mix.

Second runs were more confident. John Bloody Stephens nipped 1.62 off his first time, while Charles Oldham really buckled down and was 5.34 secs quicker. Rob Stones improved by 2.41 and Simon (The Baron) Baines was getting into his stride making life difficult for the chasing pack.

After the usual selection of heart stopping burgers for lunch the timed runs began. Martin (You shovel it I'll spread it) McHugh weaved off the line like a stabbed rat and he, Clive Hall, Simon Baines and Rob Stones all produced their best times of the day on their first runs, the track warmed up and confidence was high. However a surprise was in store, a bald stalking horse was lurking in the background!!

Run two saw one of the biggest performances of the day with Adrian Smith producing an amazing run within 0.1 sec of his target time and securing a very well earned first place. Simon Ashby in the immaculate twin cam grabbed second just 0.47 from his target of 53.24 and the overall 2015 champion Simon Baines produced FTD of 48.76 to take third. It was another excellent day.

It has been an amazing year, not least because we have enjoyed excellent weather. We have been joined by Morganers keen to try their skills and enjoy the "crack" in the paddock. Let no one be under the illusion that this is not a fiercely fought championship. Our new champion Simon Baines is no slouch behind the wheel and he has deservedly won the series after thirteen years of trying!! For those of you who are lurking in the shadows but reticent about having a go please come to the taster day next year at Curborough and see how you like it. It's not expensive and I guarantee you will get the bug!!

Toony

Photos courtesy of Simon Baines





