

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Venue: Shelsley Walsh 2015

“J’apes in the Mist”

Well the season of mist and mellow fruitfulness arrived at Shelsley along with 155 competitors including those in the Porsche, TVR and Ferrari championships. Tucked away in the corner of this historic paddock were the twelve Morgan protagonists all wound up and ready to play in this penultimate round of the Speed Championship. Proceedings were delayed due to visibility but practice eventually started around 10:00 with first sighting runs taking place without incident. While there was plenty of grip on track it proved quite difficult to get off the line with your scribe suffering from much axle tramp. All were in agreement that the conditions were conducive to quick times and this was borne out at second practice with Clive Hall being under bogey. The staccato bark of Rob Stones Sport was worse than its bite on this occasion with his time of 40.48 being blamed on overindulgence the previous evening!

Lunch was followed by a presentation to Roger Thomas who was retiring as Comps Sec after sixteen years service and we all eagerly awaited the timed runs.

Progress was slow. With a capacity field of 155 delays are inevitable and participants go “off the boil” between runs. Your scribe was suffering with a “moody” battery which caused intermittent starting but recorded a satisfying sub bogey 36.50, John “Bloody” Stephens reported a lacklustre engine and the need for a winter tune up to return it to its normal form and this showed up in his times of 42.39 and 42.78 respectively. The Carnforth Clog Dancer was having difficulty getting the power down off the line and recorded a 38.03 and the good Dr changed tyre pressures and had a cup of his “special” tea in an attempt to reduce his time of 37.46, however the tea proved ineffective and 37.72 was the second result.

Preston based Adrian Smith had made a massive effort to get to Shelsley having competed at Harewood on Saturday before driving down and camping overnight. He recorded 42.83 as his first marker and was hoping for more later. Family Ashby were out in force with Simon driving the immaculate BRG twin cam and Andrew Farr driving the 4/4, four seater to a steady 48.55. Grandad provided general words of wisdom and encouragement from the paddock!!

The ever present Paul Bryan opened with a 37.48 which was to be his best time of the day with 37.74 being his second run. Ian Hargreaves had left home at 4:30am to compete but due to the long incident delays had to return home before he could have his second run, prior to which he improved his own time to 43.67.

Simon Scott improved considerably throughout the day recording 40.84 on his first practice and ending the day with a commendable 37.93. It’s great to see a racer crossing the divide from the other direction. There is a strong argument for registered competitors to have to sport a tweed cap at every event!!

Much useful banter kept spirits up as the day wore on and the rescue truck was deployed to rescue a single seater that had failed to negotiate the top S and again for a TVR Vixen whose steering collapsed as he crossed the line. Thankfully only cars and wallets were damaged.

Final runs proved the highlight of the day with some really determined drives seeing a very close finish. The Carnforth Clog Dancer had coaching from Mr Baines on how to get off the line and produced a great FTD of 36.34 secs while Clive Hall whipped in a sub bogey time of 37.07 to earn his 100+ points and second place. Simon Ashby was rightfully pleased with a final 38.78 just +0.12 over bogey and earning him third place. Winner on the day was yours truly.

We now move on to the Grand Finale at Prescott. Simon Baines seems to be in an unassailable position but second third and fourth spots are all up for grabs with a handful of points separating Clive Hall, Chris Bailey and the scribe.....Let the games begin!!

Toony

Sept 2015





