

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Date: 3rd May 2015
Event: Ty Croes International Circuit
Weather: Sea Mist followed by Sunshine and Strong Wind!

After the hard slog of a very wet Saturday we were all praying for some reasonable weather to fully enjoy the limits of this excellent venue. The motley crew gathered in the Pit Garage that had been commandeered by the good Dr and was a welcome shelter for one and all. The scribe had forsaken his tent for a B&B. Lesson learnt!

Although there was a strong breeze it didn't shift the sea mist that shrouded the circuit but spirits were high and having walked the circuit your scribe consulted a spirit medium who advised that there was much more grip than the previous day. One lap and two spins later this opinion was revised!

Second practice was halted due to poor visibility and we all sat in the pit lane patiently waiting for the off. With the majority now going topless this meant it was decidedly nippy but the relentless banter kept spirits high and in due course we all got our second practice.

Then as if by magic the wind increased the mist dispersed and dry patches quickly appeared. Suddenly we all felt brave! First runs resulted in a mass of hand quivering adrenalin led by the good Dr who had a large and moving "moment" arriving at Target at a speed that was not conducive to negotiating the bend! He found religion first and a dry cleaner shortly afterwards!

The increase in speed also coincided with Michele B arriving with a large box of brownies from a well-known bakery in Amsterdam which gave us all comfort and a great deal of confidence.....the power boys came into their own and times tumbled across the board. It was after her second brownie that Michele had a Nureyev moment just visiting the tyre wall at the exit of the first left hander, thankfully no real harm done.

Baines senior (two brownies) now looked like Doc Brown from Back to the Future and was putting all 300bhp to good use. He was pushing the 100sec barrier and there was more to come finishing with a fine 97.75 the fourth fastest overall time of the day. Good job really as Baines Minor was right on his heels with a commendable performance 101.15 that bodes very well for the future. Rob Stone was also going well (111.40), partly because he couldn't see a thing out of his dark visor. Martin kept complaining about the cost of sheep fodder while chipping away at his times in the beautifully prepared Dellorto aspirated plus 8. His efforts culminated in a 106.08 which made him very happy at my expense. Simon Ashby's Lotus twin cam improved steadily throughout the day but for me the drive of the afternoon went to Clive Hall who recorded a stunning 107.51 which was a just return for the long winter hours re-engineering this 1720cc pushrod. Andrew Miller could finally get most of the 270bhp down to the tarmac and managed a best 104.81 in the demonic 4/4. Paul Bryan quietly got on with it as usual reducing his times by 5.55secs during the timed runs.

It was the scribe's first competition for three years and I would thank one and all for their warm welcome back into the fold. It was for me one of the most enjoyable days sport I can recall with all parties pushing so hard for that last tenth. The only thing that spoilt it for me was being beaten by 0.64 secs by a bloody farmer!!

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