

## **MSCC Techniques Speed Championship**

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2015  
Event; Ty Croes National Circuit  
Weather: 'mildly moist.....' (NOT!!!!!!)

Scorching all week, the journey over to Anglesey, along the North Wales coast on Friday afternoon, was a joy. Judy and I had a lovely meal on Friday night in shirt-sleeves. Well, not just shirt sleeves, obviously..... but woke on Saturday morning to the sound of rain hammering on the window; which was strange, because I don't know what it thought it would be allowed to do if we'd let it in.

A marvellous turnout of 13 eager sprinters for both days of the meeting, and we were pleased to welcome back Clive Hall, Andrew Miller and Rob Toon following their various enforced absences over the last season or so. Simon Baines and I felt a bit guilty because we had sold the event to Paul and Brenda Bryan as the best thing since sliced bread, and after their two day trip from the South Coast (bathed in sun) to a very wet Anglesey Circuit, trailering Paul's car behind the VW camper van, it didn't look like it was going down too well.....

Still, we are Speedmoggers, after all is said and done, and we aren't daunted by a 'little' rain!!! I think it helped that I kept insisting, to anyone who'd listen, that it would be 'cracking the flags' by lunchtime. Call me old fashioned, but I never knew the VW Camper van's option list included sharpening stones and throwing knives....

To cap it all, I went fastest in first practice, so any thought I'd be able to call on Simon as back up, if Paul and Brenda turned a little nasty, went out of the window. Rob Toon was having a blast, having had a bit of time off with a dodgy back and leg. He told me he'd been 'under nurse' quite a lot, and I heard quite a few giggles from the crew in the background, but I couldn't work out why.

The old problem of powerful cars and wet conditions meant the smaller engine cars, and those with 'sensible' tyres (ie. those that were road legal...) had the best of the times. A particular mention to Simon Ashby, in his first time at Anglesey and with a lovely Lotus twin cam engine 4/4, who ended up in second place and only a tenth of a second from winning his maiden event! That honour went to, surprise, surprise, Chris 'smooth' Bailey, with Rob Stones third. Talking of Rob, with all the problems he's had over the winter, it looks like the only thing he hadn't had to change on the car was the steering wheel, but even that's looking a little at risk...

Andrew Miller had fun in his new creation, ending up in eighth place. He was ably supported by Anne, who we hope to welcome back to sprinting soon, and a veritable army of family from both the UK and Germany. He also unveiled his secret weapon for the coming years. Harry!!! Only just toddling around and talking, but he went straight for Simon Baines car and started un-doing the tyre caps. I tried to show him how to manage a torque wrench, but he's just a little bit small yet, so I'll just have to bide my time, because needless to say once Simon

got the hang of his new engine and gearbox he beat me, finishing fourth in the process. Michele beat me as well!!! Although I was slightly closer to 'bogey', using the 'Miller formula' she ended up with a slightly higher overall points score. At least that's what Brenda told me, and as she had a throwing knife lodged between her teeth at the time, I thought it best not to argue....

Rob Toon finished seventh, closely followed by Martin McHugh in his monster Class 10 Plus 8. It was lovely to meet Mrs McHugh and the McHugh-lets. Son Edward spent a while explaining how Minecraft worked to me!!! Once he got onto how I could hide my ore up a tree with an invisibility cloak, I have to admit I started to glaze over a little, but he was too polite to say anything, and just guided me to a nice dark corner of the garage to have a little lie down. Rob Toon seemed interested in the thought of being able to hide his ore, and there was a bit more sniggering from the assembled drivers.....

Seasoned stalwart Gavin Rintoul had a fine event, and Chris Baines, in only his second event, had fun in the Bainesmobile. He seemed a little surprised that flying up to Rocket and braking on the brow might result in a little aquaplaning. Still, he is at University studying engineering and has just finished a stint at McWilliams or Maclotus or something, so he must know what he's talking about...

Clive Hall and Paul Bryan suffered perhaps from powerful cars and limited grip, but a fine day was had by all, despite the rain. Judy joined us around 2.00pm, having walked the eight miles from our hotel to the circuit in the pouring rain!!! Poor woman looked like a drowned sheep but soon warmed up with a nice cup of tea. Rob Toon's eared pricked up at the talk of wet sheep, and everyone sniggered again, but I still don't know what they kept finding so funny....

Clive Glass