

## **MSCC Techniques Speed Championship**

**Venue:** Aintree

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**Weather:** Shower during practice. Fine and blustery thereafter.

Liverpool and District Motor Club always put on a well organised and value for money event. Drivers briefings are to the point and upbeat and they try and get as many timed runs in as possible for the competitors. The popularity of the event was evidenced by a full field of one hundred and forty cars. Seven Morgans pitched up with Simon Baines piloting the factory loaned ARV while the engine in his roadster is being examined following his problems at Ty Croes. The ARV is a fearsome thing some seventy kgs lighter than a standard car and deploying a useful 235bhp which kept Simon on his toes throughout the day.

The weather changed just as practice begun but by the time we lined up the rain had all but stopped leaving us with a relatively dry track apart from Beechers which was both greasy and bumpy and ready to catch out the unwary. The long blast to the finishing line meant that terminal speeds varied from 103mph to a mighty 126mph which is exciting in anyone's language!

For once the entire MSCC crew were all running 1B tyres so that made the bogey calculations slightly easier. We were introduced to the "Hall Hi Tech Laptop Spreadsheet" that produces instant updates throughout the day. This is an excellent tool and makes the scoring job much easier. Brenda Bryan will be very appreciative!

By the end of second practice it was clear that this was to be a very close run event. Everyone was running under sixty seconds with Hall, Toon and Baines all being under bogey.

First timed runs were completed before lunch and were not without incident. The 3.9 plus 8 of the good Dr Glass elected to throw its new fan belt and in spite of the efforts of Lord Unstone who buried himself under the bonnet and in doing so revealed a builders cleavage of significant proportions was unable to realign the pulleys and make the belt stay in position. Clive retired a frustrating 0.12secs away from his target time and limped home to effect repairs.

McHugh was suffering from a bad back but managed to coax the blue monster to a 52.95 on his last run of the day taking home a useful 96.3 points towards his championship tally.

By the end of run two Clive Hall led the pack by two tenths of a second with Simon Baines second desperately trying to get under the 50 second barrier and getting closer with each run. Simon Ashby was also pushing on with a fine run of 55.90 in his lovely twin cam. This was not quite enough and he ended the day over bogey by 0.37 secs. Rob Stones produced

his best performance on run one and finished the day 0.32 from his objective. Close but no cigar! Run three was poor for your scribe. Held on the line while a dead car was towed in I lost the “zone” and made a poor start which as we all know is critical to get right.

Unusually the track remained quick until the close of play and Simon Baines produced a personal best of 50.01 to round off the day. Having been the recipient of verbal abuse (encouragement) from Dr Glass I managed to put it together and also produced my best run recording 52.48 and in doing so winning the day. Second was Simon Baines in the ARV with third going to Clive Hall. We now focus on one of the favourites this being Loton Park Hill climb in the heart of Shropshire. Roll on July 17<sup>th</sup>!

Toony

Class R lining up



Clive Hall



Simon Ashby



Martin Mc Hugh



Rob Stones



Simon Baines in the MMC ARV6

