

## **MSSC TECHNIQUES SPEED CHAMPIONSHIP**

Venue: Gurston Down

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Weather: Warm, dry, overcast with a light breeze, Light shower between R1 and R2

Four Morganeers arrived bright and early at Gurston Down to take on the challenge of this famous hill climb that was designed by the late great Tony Marsh. Unusually Gurston has a downhill start and you plummet at full chat into Hollow, a kink to the left, then to rise steeply and right at Karousel, a short blast over Deer's Leap then left and onto the home 'straight' and full throttle over the finish line.

The Morgans were first up, and first to blast off was George Proudfoot in the Series 1. George had been fettling the Series 1 and a carb change had 'unleashed' an extra 10% of power, but suffered from understeer at the exit of Karousel, and improved line in his second run saw him a mere 0.34 sec off his target time at the end of practice.

At the other end of the power scale, Alan Foster was chasing a very challenging target time in his 3.9L plus eight. Alan was hoping to break the 40 second barrier, having come tantalisingly close to doing so the day before. By the close of practice Alan was 0.77 seconds away from his goal.

Simon Ashby and Clive Hall, both in class 3 4/4's were chasing the top spot. Simon on 1b\* and Clive on 1b tyres. At the close of practice, both had 'broken bogey' and the gap between them was 0.12 sec with Clive just nudging the top spot in practice with a 40.35 sec run.

So all to play for in the competitive runs, with less than a 0.7 sec separating first and third, on handicap, after practice. The conditions were good for run 1 and George set the benchmark at 58.11 sec a little slower than in practice. Alan was 3 hundredths away from his 40 second goal. Clive went sub 40 seconds with a 39.95 sec run, but it was Simon who nudged the top spot by 6 one hundredths of a seconds on handicap, with his 40.62 sec ascent.

Sooooo close and it could all turn again on the final run! Then a light shower came and went, but would the track dry by the time the Morgans were due to run again? As a breeze blew and the darkened tarmac of the paddock turned a lighter shade of grey, would the Morgans be able to 'go for it!' again?

George went for it and improved to record 57.46, 0.58 seconds off his bogey time. Simon went for it also, but a missed gear at Karousel meant that R1 stood as his best time. Clive went for it, but could only record 41.34 seconds this time. Alan was also 1.4 seconds slower on his second run. It seems that the conditions got the better of all but George who was now invoking oversteer in the Series 1.

As the mizzle started to fall again the day was done and Simon Ashby took the honours by the closest of margins, from Clive Hall, with George Proudfoot bringing the Series 1 home in third only 0.58 seconds off bogey.

Clive Hall