

MSSC Techniques Speed Championship

Venue: Loton Park Hillclimb
Date: 17th July 2016
Weather: Perfect! Hot with light winds

Loton Park is yet another event set in a beautiful location in the heart of rural Shropshire. It is a challenging 1400 yd twisty uphill dash featuring long left handers with a camber that tries to pull you off into the shrubbery, a tight right directly in front of the spectators, followed by a very fast flowing uphill section leading to a blind brow, ninety degree left and a bumpy blast to the finishing line. There was therefore much to occupy the attention of the one hundred and forty entrants that included motor bikes and side car combos.

This had been a double header and Alan Foster and George Proudfoot had taken the opportunity to have a practice on the Saturday more of which later. Simon Baines had thrown in a late entry having taken his infamous red Plus 8 out from storage due to the ongoing issues with the engine from his roadster. An initial Morgan entry of fifteen cars was depleted by Mrs and Mrs Shiny (Bailey's) scratching and the absence of Nigel Housley due to a very severe industrial accident from which we wish him a speedy and full recovery.

The sun shone and George was happy to relate that he had achieved a Saturday time some three seconds under his target for the Sunday event. The secret to his new found speed was to be revealed later when it became apparent that he was sporting a pair of Nomex braces that were connected via his truss to the throttle spring. Any attempt to lift off pulled the lower part of his anatomy sharply towards the bulkhead.....enough said!

The first practice runs were tentative as usual but Ashby, Toon and Glass were all close to bogey while Baines discovered a top end misfire that was to plague him all day. A courtesy pause of an hour to accommodate the local church service allowed a leisurely breakfast to be taken before practice two commenced. Simon Ashby immediately went under bogey as did your scribe. There was now ample grip and nearly everyone went faster on their second run.

On the first timed run Ian Hargrave was much quicker and eventually ended the day with a 71.89sec and 94 points. Alan Johnson fought hard to break the 70 second barrier and on his very last attempt popped in a creditable 69.35sec which sent him home a very happy man! The ever sanguine Paul Bryan quietly got on with the job in hand and earned himself 94.1 points with a 63.86 run. Just 0.05 seconds behind him was Paul Clarke who had enjoyed the day long battle with PB. Rob Stones improved with every attempt finishing sixth in front of Simon Baines in the troubled 3.9 plus 8. The good Dr. Glass was trying very hard and while he missed his bogey time by just 0.36sec he had the honour of taking FTD and fourth position overall.

In the end it was Simon Ashby, George Proudfoot and your scribe filling the top three places and after partaking of a cleansing ale we all potted off into the sunset tired but happy after a great days sport. For those members reading this who are half tempted to try their luck come and have a look and a chat with us at the club sprint at Curborough. You won't regret it!

Rob Toon