

MSCC TECHNIQUES SPEED CHAMPIONSHIP

Venue: Prescott

Date: 2nd October 2016

Weather: Fine and Sunny

Eleven Morganeers took up their paddock spaces at this fantastic speed venue located at the gateway to the Cotswolds, for this the final round of the 2016 Techniques Speed Championship. All were greeted by the bright autumn sunshine and as a result the prospect of a great day's competition ahead. Some had made a weekend of it and had entered the Saturday's event, but the potential advantage of a day's practice was all but wiped out by rain, and there could barely be a greater contrast between the two days.

First practice proved interesting as the track was definitely a bit 'green' as a result of Saturday's conditions. This combined with the bright and low autumn sun which greeted all on the approach to the final corner 'semi-circle' made for a 'variable' set of times.

Prescott is an excellent venue that requires a great combination of power, technique and nerve to put together a great time. Drivers blast off the start line and rapidly up through the gears, under the bridge and around the fast left hander at Orchard to break for the first hairpin which is known as Ettories...the bend tightens on the exit, you blast first downhill and then up again into the next hairpin, Pardon. This one is a steep lefthander...now back on the accelerator and up through the gears again and into the Esses, a blind entry to a quick right, left, right and then 90 degree left. Accelerate again up to semi-circle...a right hander with nothing but a view of the bright blue sky ahead. Blast over the finish line, slow slow now and take a breath, turn down the return road, back to your paddock spot and what was the time?? It felt good, but was it fast!?

After practice Rob Toon held the top spot in his pursuit of enough points to clinch the championship. Chris Bailey was in second spot, Clive Hall in third, then Adam Roper and the other championship contender Simon Baines in fifth. But all had some time to find if they were going to beat their target time and improve their hopes of a place on the championship podium.

Throughout the field the friendly rivalries that had been played out over the season, and seasons past, all drivers chasing their personal targets, be that a time or to out-perform a friend. Could Pa Housley beat Michele, which 4/4 Sport would be the faster on the day, could the tuned smaller engine cars out-run the V8 grunt of the plus eights? All could only be answered by the afternoon's competition.

After lunch, and an aerobatics display in the clear blue sky overhead, the competition resumed. No time for practice now, these are the runs that really count! Most got quicker...Toony spun..was the pressure of chasing down the championship too much? All to play for on the final run of the day...Nigel Housley posted a sub sixty second time, meeting his personal target, Ian Hargrave secured a class win and first in class in the championship, Adam Roper was the faster 4/4 sport on the day and some of the tuned 4/4's did outrun some of the eights.

Fastest time of the day went to Mike Meredith at 48.28 seconds in his V8 monster, and with a great second run the honours on the day went to Rob Toon, who was the only competitor to beat his target with a 50.94 second run. Chris Bailey and Adam Roper tied for second and the fourth spot went to yours truly.

But was Rob's win enough to secure him the championship.....watch this space!

A great day's competition and a fitting end to a great season's racing. It is noteworthy that going into the final round the top four competitors had all scored enough points to have taken last year's championship outright. The top six had averaged a championship score of over 100 points per event. To come close to taking this year's championship a driver would have to average well over target, over six events, an outstanding performance in anybody's' book!

Can't wait until next season.....Bring it on!

Clive Hall