

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2016

Venue: Wiscombe Park

Date: 23rd April 2016

I don't think I'm alone in having a small boy approach to the first event of the year and I tend to wake up regularly the night before just to check if its time to get up and go!!

This time Clive Hall and I chose to stay (not together!) close to the hill the night before in a pub that was only two stars up from a Murmansk slaughter house but it did the job!

The day dawned bright and sunny and a healthy entry of six Morgans gathered on the sloping paddock that overlooks this lovely valley. We welcomed George Proudfoot for his first event in his glorious series one and the seasoned campaigners were quick to involve him in the banter and provide large amounts of useless advice! Scrutineering was completed without a glance at the roll bars that have caused so much winter heartache.

This was the first event of the season at Wiscombe and to say the track was green would be a massive understatement. It *looked* ok but even on the fast uphill opening straight we really struggled for grip making "bunny leap" and the following narrow gateway even more of a challenge than usual. Once into the Esses which were still shrouded in shadow it was even worse and braking distances were at best a wild guess. We all recorded very gentle openers and decided that respect was the order of the morning. On the return trip downhill George's series one developed a misfire which resulted in him receiving more useless advice and he resolved the issue by changing the dizzy cap which had cracked.

Practice two was a different thing again. Slightly more grip on the straight gave false confidence as we entered the Esses as Alan Foster found out when he managed a spin before the "sawbench" hairpin arriving at the top with several pounds of top soil stuck to the back of his lovely 3.9. It was a lucky escape with no real damage. Tracey Ashby was to record her best time of the day with a respectable 61.42 over five seconds quicker than first practice. We all improved and could begin to see that bogey times might be in reach. Ian Hargreaves was making steady progress and his plus4 was resplendent with new roll cage and Ian himself was sporting an Anne Summers neck restraint (Hans device) !!

The serious stuff began after lunch and this is where it got interesting!! George was 8.37 secs quicker than his first run and he was applying all 34bhp with verve. He recorded his best time of the day with a clean 69.81 and returned with a grin that said it all. However the stalking horse Mr Ashby in the immaculate twin cam suddenly put it all together and banged in a stunning 49.92 a full 0.6 secs under bogey. He took the lead that he was not about to relinquish. Toon and Hall still had ground to make up, Clive needing 1.57 secs and your scribe having to find 1.26. So the fight was on for second and third slots. Your scribe was on song but simply overdrove the very last bend which was a costly mistake as you can't do that with Mr Hall behind you and he duly punished me with a clean and quick run. George had got competitive and lowered his screen to make the series one more aerodynamic but

to no avail. So Mr Ashby took a well deserved first and collected 102.2 points. Clive was second scoring 99.5 and the scribe was third with 97.3 points. It was a great start to the season. Roll on Goodwood!

Toony