

MSCC TECHNIQUES SPEED CHAMPIONSHIP

Venue: Debden
Date: 7th May 2017
Weather: Dry with cloud clearing but windy

7.30 am. Walking the sprint course laid out on this north Essex former airfield and the wind was making it feel more like January than May.

It was a new course too; the result of the host club's seemingly never ending efforts to appease the neighbours.

But it was dry and there was still the usual grippy tarmac surface and with a map of the course in hand and some very good signage on the gates and chicanes things looked promising.

But was there just too much signage?

First practice saw an unusual number of wrong routes on the return 'straight' as many drivers found themselves looking at too many arrows to decide which was the right path to take. These problems continued all day and Speedmoggers too were guilty of some directional confusion at times (or two of them) but could at least take solace from hearing that a regular and former ftd driver managed to get it wrong every time. Next time we must concentrate.

Just four Morgans were competing, the class 8 cars of Rob Toon (+8) and Paul Bryan (4/4), Paul Clarke's Roadster lightweight and Ian Hargrave's 4/4.

It was Paul Clarke's second outing in his car after a racing incident last year and a winter rebuild and he was clearly enjoying the way it was handling. His second practice run set the handicap times and he continued to set the pace all day improving his time by nearly nine seconds on the 1.3 mile course.

Ian Hargrave was also having a good day as he too was able to finish with a nine second improvement over his first practice time.

Not such a good day for the class 8 drivers who when they could find the right way both struggled with a reluctant second gear and could not improve on their first timed runs.

Once again the Herts County Club had provided a first class event and we hope that there is a future for motorsport at this venue.

PB