

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Venue: Blyton Park
Date: 30th July 2017
Weather: Mainly dry and sunny

After the impressive turnout for Loton Park two weeks earlier, the equally fabulous Blyton Park Sprint only attracted 3 Morgan entries this year.

Like Debden, one never knows which circuit will be in operation as there are several options available. This year it was the relatively new "Eastern Circuit". Since the MSCC have not competed on this before new Target Times had to be determined from the Practice Laps. Many thanks to Brenda and Paul Bryan for all the number crunching on the day so we knew our objectives! We decided that this circuit should be classified as a "Fast" rather than a "Twisty" Sprint Course.

The day started nice and sunny, but there were 'leaking clouds' on the horizon in more than one direction, so it was not clear if it would stay dry all day...

Despite walking the new course, we all found some of the corners sharper than anticipated on the First Practice lap and all knew we could improve our lines and times. And so it turned out, with Paul Bryan and I both knocking several seconds off our first run whereas the already quick Paul Clarke only improved marginally.

Then came lunch and the threatening clouds. Just seconds after Paul Clarke concluded we would be OK after all, the heavens opened and it poured down! As we huddled in Paul Bryan's tow vehicle or under an umbrella, we were dreading being called back out to race again. But we were in luck. Just as our numbers were called the rain eased off for our first Timed Run.

Now we had our Target Times at which to aim, but a wet track on which to race... Paul Bryan played it safe and concentrated on the racing line, but Paul Clarke and I both reckoned the track was drying fast and had grip, so we "went for it". Paul came in under bogey despite the slippery starting line!

Now the sun re-appeared and the wind picked up to further dry the track. We knew conditions were perfect for the "flying lap". All of us made significant improvements and posted our fastest times so far. It was clear now that Paul would be the winner: but which Paul? Too close to call...

Since it was possible to have 3 cars on the circuit simultaneously, there was time for a 3rd Timed Run. I opted out, as I had guests coming and needed to get away promptly. But the two Pauls decided to put in one final sprint, despite the ominous threat of more rain. Both came back visibly shaken from their final runs as both had given it their all and taken their cars to the limits, knocking well over a second off their previous already impressive times. In the final reckoning it was Paul Clarke who came out on top, but it was very close (a mere 0.28 seconds.)

This is such a fabulous sprint Circuit. The grip is superb, with good run-off encouraging spirited driving and a nice combination of fast straights and tricky corners. It always puts a smile on my face to race here. Try to make sure you don't miss out on the fun next year!"

Ian Hargrave