

## **MSCC Techniques Speed Championship**

Venue: Oliver's Mount  
Date: 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017  
Weather: Dry and warm

The return of the Championship to this venue has been long anticipated, and seven drivers took the opportunity to blast up the iconic hill section of the only street racing circuit in England (check it out if you don't believe me.....)!!! We were thankful for good weather, as on occasion in the past the sea mists from the nearby Scarborough coast have delayed the early morning start. So no excuses then.....

First practice saw 'Gorgeous George' Proudfoot under bogey, closely pursued by Rob Toon, also under, and Simon Baines just three tenths adrift. Rob had kindly provided oil-catch tarpaulins, which are required to protect the paddock tarmac. I did wonder why they had fitted corners, but Rob assured us they hadn't seen any earlier use. Having arrived a tad late at the circuit I hadn't had chance for the usual hill walk before starting competition, and so clean forgot that the braking point at the bottom of the first long straight was at the SECOND Tannoy pole. Still, the lovely black lines I left on the tarmac were well received by the rest of the group during second practice, which saw improvements for all, and set us up nicely for the first run before lunch.

Nigel 'Pop' Housley reported himself pleased to break the 60-second barrier, whilst I managed a sub-50, but sadly Adrian Smith, on his return to sprinting after his recent sabbatical, had clutch problems and had to retire. Alan Johnson, having shed more weight (the car, not him), was just over half a second over on his first trip to the hill, whilst Simon, Rob, and Gorgeous were all under; Rob leading the pack 2.73 under.

Following a leisurely lunch, Alan managed a fantastic run to end up 0.4 under bogey – his first ever time under, so he was warmly applauded, although problems with his fuel pump (and needing to drive the car home) meant discretion was the better part of valour, so he wisely retired. During the three timed runs after lunch, Simon managed to continue to chip away at his time to end up 1.53 seconds under bogey, whilst Gorgeous George, Rob and I had to settle for our pre-lunch times being our best runs of the day. Nigel managed to reduce his time to a creditable 58.47, and so Rob Toon's time prevailed and he ended up a well-deserved winner.

Oliver's Mount is all about the circuit and the day, whilst the awards are mere afterthoughts, so in many ways we were all glad Rob won. Honest.....

So the top of the table is tight as we head towards the club championship sprints at Curborough on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, with Simon on 614.5, and Gorgeous George on 614.2. As former Republic of Ireland star Tony Cascarino once said, "If you're going to win the Premier League, you're going to have to finish ahead of Chelsea and Man City".

You couldn't make it up....

Clive Glass