

## **MSCC Techniques Speed Championship**

**Event:** Prescott Hill climb

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2017

**Weather:** Wet, wet, dry, wet!

The last event of the 2017 calendar and as usual we all convened at Prescott which is one of the most iconic Hillclimb locations in the UK. Steeped in tradition and maintaining its historic atmosphere it always attracts a full field with a wonderful mix of cars from Hillman Imps to Scimitars, single seaters, hot rods, and of course the wonderful Bugatti marque. Entertainment includes jugglers, stilt walkers, the Michelle Bailey knitting display, jazz bands and a genuine motorcycle American Wall of Death!! Great family fun.

The Morgan contingent of ten included the newly crowned 2017 champion George Proudfoot who was joined by Nick Bolton in his 4.6 plus eight with a wonderful basso profundo sound track. We welcomed him into the fold and before long he was enjoying the banter and the un-PC comments that we are accustomed to! It was also good to see Nigel Ledger Lomas back in action and we hope to see him more in 2018.

The weather was challenging to say the least. Most of us had spent the week tracking the BBC weather report which to all intents and purposes was a waste of time and effort. The rain came in before first practice, the start marshals advised caution and how wise they were! Leaving the line in second gear was the only course of action and even then progress was slow and crablike taking third gear slowly and carefully to avoid further loss of traction. We were to a man (or person!!) very careful and I recorded a PW (personal worst!). It was probably the slippiest conditions I have experienced in ten years of competing at Prescott and there was much puffing of cheeks and shaking of heads as one by one we returned unscathed to the paddock. To put it into perspective we were all circa ten seconds slower than we would normally achieve. Second practice was marginally better but braking points were absolute guesswork at best.

Lunch came and went, we just wanted one dry run and the motorsport gods were kind. We all knew we had to commit as this was our only chance of the day to post a time. Roofs were lowered and screens removed. Cars were leathered off and engines warmed. As we approached the start line the tyre warming area indicated a dry track with just about enough grip to take a few risks. Michelle Bailey led the way followed by High Fibre Proudfoot and Nigel Housley who was celebrating his fifty first wedding anniversary by not being at home with his beloved! Times tumbled with your scribe being overall quickest at 52.00 followed by Paul Clarke in the roadster with a 53.26. High Fibre wasn't going to take it quietly to preserve his bogey times for next season and he posted a 69.09 which was to net him first overall on handicap with your scribe following on and Simon Ashby third.

The last run was a wash out as the rains came in again. No one was being heroic and all the Morgans came back unmarked! Conversations were already taking place about modifications to be made in the off season. Mr Hall will have rebuilt his engine, Mr Ashby is putting his car on a diet, Nigel L

Lomas talked of tyre selection, Mrs Shiny dropped one (a stitch that is) and Nick Bolton was already talking of rollbars and harnesses so I think we have another convert.

Over the winter months I shall be writing an article outlining the real costs of a seasons competition, the bare essentials required to enter the fray and the people and dealers best placed to help. In the interim we shall stand in the pub telling stories of daring do, events won and lost and laughs we have had. Roll on 2018.

Rob Toon