

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Event: Shelsley Walsh
Date: 17th September 2017
Weather: Overcast but dry

The Journey east, from our overnight stop at Ludlow, had a crisp autumn feel about it, with the mists in the fields and valleys and the sunrise a sight to behold. Anyway, enough of the poetic guff!!!.... Shelsley Walsh is the quintessential English hill climb venue, nestled in a stunning valley, with buzzards flying overhead (oh no, I'm off again.....). Basically it's a great site, fantastic restaurant facilities, and a challenging hill, and 12 Morgan competitors decided to give it a go. Congratulations and thanks to the MAC organizing committee and marshals for taking our thoughts on board after last year, and ensuring the day ran smoothly.

Our own international playboy of the western world (Ian Hargrave) was getting bored with just flying in from Germany, so upped the stakes for the prize of "Competitor most Travelled" by coming in from Bangalore in Southern India instead, which knocked my tootle over from sunny Southport into a cocked hat. Rob Toon was having an off-day with neuralgia/tooth abscess pain and so, as is our wont, we gave him little sympathy and told him just to take a little more water with it next time....

After a hard fought year the Championship had come down to a run off between Simon Baines and Gorgeous George Proudfoot, and with Simon otherwise engaged, George took full advantage. Essentially your best six events are totaled up to give your overall tally for the year, so most people at this stage of the year are trying to 'drop' their lowest score, and as George had a relatively modest (for him) 97 to drop, he only needed to set a half decent competitive run and he'd win the overall championship.

First runs were a 'sighter' for all competitors, but second practice saw George 'under bogey', closely followed by Chris Bailey, Paul Bryan, Simon Ashby and John B Stephens. John would be the first to admit his season hasn't gone to plan this year, but we now know he's only pushing out 89BHP instead of 110, so if he's at the season finale at Prescott the rest had better watch out!!!

Andrew Farr had set himself a target of sub-43 seconds, Pa Housley a sub-44 (although he seemed a lot more interested in a hairy Beetle in the paddock – but the less said about that, the better), and 'new boy' James Walter was getting to grips with his Plus 4.

First timed runs saw George break bogey, and then better it again on run two to finish with a magnificent 49.79, 2.36 seconds under bogey. Needless to say, he was warmly applauded on his return to the paddock, although we all took solace in the knowledge that he's going to be chasing his own bogey times next year!!!

Chris Bailey saved his best until last, finishing a creditable 0.21 under bogey, with Paul Bryan third, just 0.3 seconds over, Rob 'I'm not well, honest' Toon 0.79 over in 4th, and yours truly 5th a further 0.04 behind. Michele Bailey had had a 'stealth' day, gradually chipping away to record her best time up the hill, with our inimitable

timekeeper, Brenda Bryan, keeping us all up to speed after our runs. Andrew and Pa achieved their goals, and Simon Ashby gained his best result at the hill by finishing just over a second over bogey, with James finishing with a big grin on his face.

And so to Prescott in two weeks. I've told George to take it easy – no point breaking all the bogeys in one year....., and then its on to the awards dinner on the 4th November. Those drivers planning on attending need to contact Michele quickly as there are only limited reserved rooms.

Just for once, I might join Rob in taking a bit less water with it than normal.....!!!

Clive Glass