

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Event Report: Ty Croes – International

Date: 6th May 2018

Weather: Swirling sea mist and occasional sun (you really couldn't make it up...!!!!)

09.00; Valley village, sea mist. 09.20; Ty Croes village, glorious sunshine. 09.25; Ty Croes circuit, sea mist...

Sunday was the warmer of the two day sprint weekend, and the sun managed to burn off the mist by 10.30, but it just kept coming back in, and so on the first few runs you couldn't really see the full circuit. Hurling down the back straight and trying to decide when and where to brake for the sharp left-hander at Rocket was particular fun!!!

The day started with the presentations of the previous day's awards, which we'd all forgotten about. Thankfully Simon Baines had collected them at the presentation ceremony so we all looked a little sheepish, which as we were in Wales meant we fitted in rather well I thought. As he hadn't made the driver's dinner in November 2017, we also presented Farmer McHugh with the Speedmog Green Grass Award; the annual trophy for the most spectacular non-damaging 'off'. We all had a good laugh, until someone pointed out the fact that I'd been awarded it in the past...TWICE!!!!. Anyway, moving on...

Two practices are required for the single-lap international circuit, but once again, the MG Car Club track management was exemplary, so there were no delays. The sea mist didn't stop Judy spotting Gorgeous George's balletic pirouette, wave to the marshals, and continuation of his first practice lap. It's been noted George. An early 2018 'green grass' contender methinks...

First timed runs saw Michele have an uncharacteristic spin at Corkscrew. We were concerned to see a few cars not heeding the red flags, but thankfully no damage was done. We all settled down to setting a 'banker' lap on the first timed run before lunch, with Simon Baines closest to bogey, just 0.6 over; we'd been joined by Adrian Smith, meaning a total of 12 drivers for the Sunday sprint. Simon Ashby was again having fun off the start line, the engine managing to cut off and him being able to brake, before his back wheels crossed the line, so he could be pushed back to re-start without penalty. Needless to say, back in the paddock, we all decided it was just a ploy to spin up the back tyres (have I mentioned tyre heat before...????).

Run 2 saw Simon Ashby 1.3 under bogey, Rob Toon 0.3 under, and Simon Baines 0.02 under. Adrian Smith was a couple of seconds over but reckoned revving his old dad's 1.6 over 7000RPM might be making the engine start to wear a bit, whilst Paul Clark and I were again fairly close; Paul once again edging it... (you can go off some people you know....).

The sun came out for a little longer as the day progressed and Run 3 saw Gorgeous George go 0.65 under, Rob Toon go 0.55 under, Simon Ashby increased his advantage to go 1.96 under, and Simon Baines managed to go 0.54 under. With the

time marching on, there was time for one more timed run, which saw Paul Clarke join the 'under bogey club' with a 101.91. I ended up 0.52 over, and Adrian and Chris Bailey tied for seventh, both 1.52 over. Michele set her best time ever for the International circuit, Farmer McHugh got down to 102.23, James Walter again managed to knock 5 seconds off over the day, and Nick Bolton got down to 106.5. All in all, not a bad weekend's sprinting and, if you've never fancied coming, I have a couch, a swinging fob watch, and a couple of hours to spare if you're free...