

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Event Report: Ty Croes – National

Date: 5th May 2018

Weather: Windy and overcast

The hottest early May Bank Holiday on record!!!! Unless you were at Ty Croes that is...The rest of Anglesey was baking, but the west coast of the island caught the edge of the cloud line. Judy had to come back to the circuit from Beaumaris mid-afternoon because she thought she might get heat stroke. Oh, how we all sympathised....!!!

Still, cooler temperatures meant cooler running (faster) engines (but doesn't that also mean less sticky tyres...??), and eleven drivers were lined up ready to play – a fantastic turnout for what turned out to be a fantastic weekend (oh, the symmetry.....). Many drivers have also opted to enter the Classic Marques Challenge this year, so we were able to see how we got on compared to the TVR, Porsche, Honda, Mazda and Lotus entrants. Classic Marques is run on power to weight calculation, and the only faff was we all had to troop down to Northampton Motorsports to use the same rolling road. It coincided with the beast from the east (or, as we know him, Norman from Hull...) so the snow meant Mr. Toon couldn't get there. He's since produced a separate P/W calculation from his local rolling road but, as its written in crayon, we're all a little suspicious...

Anyway, back to Ty Croes...

We were joined this year by Nick Bolton in a Plus 8 and James Walter in a Plus 4, and I'd taken the precaution of ordering a couple of garages (windbreaks....). So they couldn't escape....

The National circuit sprint is run as a two-lapper so that meant one practice run, and then straight into the timed runs. MG Car Club run their events really well, and try to get as many timed runs into the day as possible, and this weekend was no exception. Practice saw Rob Toon, Simon Baines and I all within a few tenths of bogey. I'd been 'fortunate' catching a slower car so my run was on warmed tyres, but more of that later.... Everyone kept things on the black stuff, and so we managed our first timed run before lunch. Simon Ashby had an uncharacteristic failure due to a sudden power loss, Rob Toon was again within a tenth of bogey, and Simon Baines went under by 0.7 to set the early pace. Farmer McHugh was having a bit of problem with a leaking valve seal on his new engine, James knocked 5 seconds off his practice time, and Nick 3.5, so things were going in the right direction. Second timed runs saw Paul Clark set his fastest time of the day at 128.31, as did Simon Baines who went 1.37 under, farmer McHugh with a 128.74, and James Walter with a 159.19 – over seven seconds under his practice time. I also did my fastest time of the day; a 128.37, and as Paul and I are in the same class I wasn't amused!! 0.06 of a second is the equivalent of a credit card between us. Chris and Michele were both chipping away at their times, getting used to the handling and power delivery of their recent +4 purchase (now Rudolf has gone to a new home), whilst Rob Toon had an off, Simon Ashby was struggling getting off the line, and Gorgeous George was a couple of seconds slower. All in all, I thought he took the comments about not keeping his finger on the map in his road atlas on future runs in very good spirit....

Then we had the third run and all hell was let loose. Michele smashed her best time on the National circuit with a 148.99, Nick Bolton got down to 130.15, and Gorgeous George had saved the best until last, to end up 0.22 under bogey. Simon Ashby, however, had clearly got his starting line problems sorted as he produced an absolutely stunning 133.07, to finish 2.82 seconds under bogey and became our overall winner on the day!!

So we ended up with Simon Ashby first, Simon Baines second, and George Proudfoot third. Rob Toon was the quickest of the Class 9 cars, at 0.12 over bogey, Paul Clark 1.1 over, and I ended up 1.16 over. I never did manage to get to my practice time of 127.43. Did I mention warm tyres at all????