

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Venue Harewood
Date 3 June 2018
Weather dry and humid

An excellent turnout of 16 drivers and 15 cars arrived at Harewood hillclimb. Pat Hadley had travelled 270 miles each way to join us; that's some effort! We were also joined by Dave Gibson who had travelled down from the North, through torrential rain he informed us. We all crossed our fingers for a dry day.

Rumour was rife in the paddock that it was Simon 'Baron' Baines birthday, and we had a discussion about the 'bumps' (decided against) and his possible age; when asked he said yes it was indeed his birthday and revealed his age. Let's just say he's not '21'; not even again. Good job I had unwittingly made extra cakes to help celebrate!

We were first class out, with Chris running in Class and me in the next batch. Paul Bryan was out in his Supersport; I couldn't get used to him being in a red car, and remained confused by it all day.

First practice runs were all fine. I thought it was a bit slippey, but Chris disagreed. Pa Housley and I were missing Ian Hargrave in our own private competition, and considered adopting a temporary 3rd musketeer. In the end we decided we would just miss Ian. 'Gorgeous' George Proudfoot was looking rather pleased with himself as his first run was almost 2 seconds under target. In fact he was looking quite smug, so we decided he should now be called 'Smeorge'.

Second practice saw improvements by most, although John B Stephens was 0.03 slower, with Alan Johnson 0.19 slower. Smeorge was still at the top, but Baron Baines was inching closer. Clive lost a petrol gauge (stick) at Orchard, and a marshal returned a red screwdriver which he thought had dropped off either Paul B or Alan's car going through Farmhouse, although neither recognised it.

We had first timed run before lunch, when a former competitor joined us; it was good to see Lord Unstone (Richard Smith). Nick Bolton had a moment and went off, but was fine, unfortunately with minor damage to the car. Martin recorded exactly the same time as his second practice run, and Dave Gibson was 0.01 faster. Everyone else was quicker.

The rain stayed off and during lunch when we had trophy presentations, with trophies from Ty Croes, and the MSCC awards dinner to Toony, John BS and Dave. Also during lunch Toony was interviewed by the Classic Marques for a view on the season so far. The CM does seem to generate discussion between the competitors in the different marques, which can only be good. Paul C, Toony and John were seen cleaning their tyres, removing the cut grass lying in the paddock parking area. A grassy speed hump in their path then appeared in our paddock area, which confused the paddock marshals.

After lunch we moved onto second timed runs. Martin had a grass cutting excursion, as did Paul B. Toony and Clive were separated by only 0.07, and Paul Clarke recorded exactly the same time as Run 1!

Our third timed run soon came upon us, and we were hoping for a 4th. Simon Ashby recorded his fastest time of the day, and so did the Baron, along with most others. Unfortunately we didn't get a 4th run, but it was a splendid day out, and great competition, which is what the Speed Championship is all about.

Final results were:

1	Gorgeous George
2	Simon "Blacksmith" Ashby
Joint 3	The Baron and Toony

Thanks to Brenda for keeping our scores.

Michele Bailey
10 June 2018

PS. if anyone is looking for accommodation for Aintree please contact me; we cannot make it and I have booked and prepaid it.