

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Event: Aintree
Date: 30th June 2018
Weather: Officially Cracking the Flags!!!

Six intrepid sprinters made their way to Aintree, where temperatures were 28 degrees by 9.00am!!! Gorgeous George Proudfoot and James Walter had made the trip up from the wilds of the South of England (funny place, never did understand the attraction....) suffering a long and arduous journey due to accidents and road works on Friday evening. I had my own turmoil on the Saturday morning as the journey from my current address to the circuit is a full 11 minutes!! It was hell, I can tell you. I couldn't decide whether to have a second cup of tea or move on to coffee before setting off (makes up for all those seven hour journeys I've made to race at Snetterton I suppose....).

There was shock horror at the circuit too!!! In first practice George DIDN'T break bogey!!! We sat him down and gave him a good talking to, but the result in second practice was the same. Even the normally unflappable Simon Baines looked shocked!! At the end of practice everyone was left scratching their heads. The technically savvy members were talking about heat affecting engine performance, and tyre/tarmac temperatures, whilst the rest of us – me, John B Stephens and James Walter – just assumed they'd moved the finishing point on a few yards....

The first of what turned out to be three timed runs was held before lunch, when normal service was resumed. Gorgeous posted a 68.21 to go 0.4 seconds under bogey, in what turned out to be his best run of the day. The rest of us just kept chipping away at times, but no-one else managing to break the 'bogey barrier'. We were joined for the day by Jonno 'Hairy' Baines in his single seater. He needed assistance being strapped into his harness and it was tempting to strap him in once and leave him there for the rest of the day, but we heeded the RSPCA warning of not locking poor defenseless creatures in cars in hot weather.....

The two Simon's decided to leave their best runs until the final run, with Simon Ashby ending up second 0.4 over bogey, and Simon Baines 0.68 over. I ended up 0.96 over, John B 1.22, and James Walter on a 62.03 – his aim in this season is to be within ten percent of the bogey time, so he was well pleased. I noticed John B Stephens staring wistfully into the distance – I think he was still harking back to Snetterton....

Loton Park next!!!! Roll on 14th July.

Clive Glass