

## **MSCC Techniques Speed Championship**

Event: Loton Park  
Date: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
Weather: Sunshine and clouds – Hot!!!

Eight sprinters braved the continuing sweltering temperatures that have come to define Summer 2018. Messers Proudfoot and Foster managed some cheeky practice on the hill on Saturday (damn – I forgot this was a two day event....!!!) and reported a grippy track with no obvious lumps and bumps. The organisers at Loton did a fantastic job resurfacing the entire length of the hill last year and it's 'bedded in' well, so fast times were anticipated....

The organisers have historically split the Morgans into two groups - below and above two litres, and so there were two trophies up for grabs. The timing of the church service meant we couldn't tyre warm on the first practice and so everyone took it carefully, with Simon Ashby putting a marker down just a second over bogey. Gorgeous George clearly hadn't had his three Weetabix (other breakfast cereals are available) and so didn't break bogey, Pa Housley was a little distracted as half his household are French and apparently there was a little football match on somewhere they were all a bit anxious about, and John B Stephens still hadn't quite got over Snetterton....

The larger engine class took things carefully – these are powerful engines and Loton is a very narrow track - with Nick Bolton and Pat Hadley just a few tenths apart in Class 10, and Alan Foster and I close in Class 9. Times tumbled in Practice 2 as everyone got to grips with the track, and had the benefit of tyre warming. Well, not quite everyone.... Simon Ashby was a little too keen at Keepers and backed off after getting two wheels on the grass, whilst Nick Bolton went one further (or should that be two....) going straight on at Museum and just kissing the tyre wall, with thankfully no damage to either car or driver. We were joined at lunchtime by Rob Stones in his Aero 8, and remembered his excursion at the same point, a few years back, which resulted in a broken radiator, so Nick got off lightly all things considered.

First timed runs after lunch saw both George and Nigel a little slower than second practice (I blame the pies....), but Simon Ashby put in a stunning run to post a 62.96. Not only well under bogey on the day, but also the under 2 ltr class record of Philip Young of 63.13, which has stood since July 2003 – a fantastic achievement. Yours truly was managing to lead the bigger engine group, but I could see that my professional skills were going to be necessary, as George once again didn't break bogey!!!! I sat him down and used the old swinging watch technique to put him in a trance-like state, and then off we went for the final run. Nick and Pat set their fastest times, John B Stephens and Alan Foster had clearly succumbed to the heat and went a little slower, and I managed to get into the 61's, ending up 0.7 over. The excitement though was reserved for the battle between Simon and George. The 'old fluence' clearly worked and George got up the hill in 77.87, which meant he would pip Simon Ashby to take first place, but Simon then managed an incredible 62.05, meaning he ended up 2.08 under, to

George's 1.62 under. Both, excellent results, but Simon's time was remarkable – over a second below the class hill record!!!

Prize giving ended the day with Simon and I receiving awards for heading our groups. I felt a little guilty getting an award instead of George, but then I remembered that trophies are awarded for the best time relative to others in a group, and as Albert Einstein once said “When you are courting a nice girl an hour seems like a second, and when you sit on a red hot poker a second seems like an hour – that's relativity”.

Clive Glass