

MSCC TECHNIQUES SPEED CHAMPIONSHIP

Venue: Gurston Down, Wiltshire.

Date: 20th June 2021

Weather: Misty, showers, mainly wet.

BARC South West welcomed us to Gurston Down for the first southern Hillclimb of 2021. The last time we were here was in 2019.

Widely recognised as one of the best hill climb venues in the UK. At 957 metres, the track holds the unique characteristic of descending off the start – something that only adds to the spectacle for competitors and spectators alike.

There were eight Morganeers entered in this event:

25 Paul Clarke
26 George Proudfoot
27 Howard Burton
28 Andy Hatch
29 James Walter
30 James Dean
33 Alan Foster
730 Georgina Dean

Unfortunately Alan had to withdraw his entry as his car was not well. Georgina also withdrew on the day.

The new normal restrictions required us to complete a few more online forms in advance, including “signing on”. Scrutineering was by online form and random checks. There were no spectators allowed, but up to three helpers for each competitor could be nominated in advance. There was a full complement of marshals present, without whom the event could not be run.

Practice began at 8:30 in damp conditions. Cautiously exploring the lack of grip, the first runs were all 10 seconds or so off the pace, compared to personal best times. On handicap against the new target times introduced last year, we were around 15 seconds adrift.

The misty rain eased off slightly for second practice, and times began to improve. There was still no grip off the line and in the usual flat out section at the beginning most drivers were lifting off for the slight left hand bend. Another challenge was the misting up of visors and glasses, some of us having to raise the visor while driving with one hand.

At lunchtime there was more rain as we took a break.

The afternoon timed runs began in the dry. But by the time our Batch 3 was called to the line it was drizzling once more. Paul and Andy drove with roofs on. Howard and George managed with just an aero screen. Everyone chipped away a second or two, except Paul

who seemed to have reached his peak with a a best time of 43.87 seconds, the fastest Morgan of the day.

The second timed runs were even wetter, but most times improved fractionally. Everyone was slipping, sliding and opposite locking. Paul put four wheels on the grass and his time was disallowed. No damage done.

Results on handicap:

1st. George Proudfoot

2nd. Howard Burton

3rd. James Dean

See Results document for details.

James Walter



