

# MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2021

## Event Report

Venue: Blyton Park

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021

The Techniques Speed Championship is so named because the ultimate aim is the pursuit of speed. There can be few if any tracks on our calendar where the speeds are as thrilling as Blyton Park in Lincolnshire. This purpose built sprint tracks offers many configurations so it provides the perfect opportunity to compete on 2 different track configurations in 2 days – the perfect “double header”. Such is the popularity of the event that only 6 Speedmogs managed to get an entry although many more did try. The lucky few were Clive Glass, Nick Bolton, Paul Clarke, Howard Burton and the Baines Family – Chris and Simon.

This was Howard’s first visit to the venue so there would be plenty to learn whilst Nick was familiar with the circuit, but was still learning his recently acquired Roadster Lightweight.

### Saturday – The Eastern Circuit

The day began overcast but dry. Following an early track walk it was soon time for the one and only practice. The 1<sup>st</sup> corner caught a few out including Howard who managed a brief spin but managed to continue, whilst Simon ran wide but just kept it on track.

The lack of a 2<sup>nd</sup> practice meant that the timed runs were soon upon us. Howard was still struggling on the 1<sup>st</sup> corner whilst others managed the usual improvements. Paul Clarke however, was already searching for the limits and by the time he arrived at the final corner, he found them. A determined attempt to brake hard and take a 90 degree right to the line resulted in Paul exiting stage left, backwards, but not without catapulting a corner marker across the finishing line. The marker set a respectable time but unfortunately it wasn’t on the entry list.

Timed run 2 and the Morgan weather jinx was upon us in the form of a gentle drizzle. Only the brave went faster with everyone else taking a cautious approach.

The afternoon provided us with another 3 timed runs with DNF’s by Howard Burton and Nick Bolton disrupting their progress. Simon and Paul were eyeing up the 1<sup>st</sup> place award and after Simon thought it was his for the taking on Run 4, Paul produced a final run of 78.27. When the results were calculated, Simon was ahead by 0.08 seconds but when the points were calculated, the honours went to Paul – 0.02 points ahead – it couldn’t be much closer.

### Sunday – The Outer Circuit

The day started overcast but soon cleared to produce excellent conditions. The same format as Saturday – 1 practice and then into the timed runs. It was a similar story with many finding their way in practice but after the 1<sup>st</sup> timed run, it was all getting a “little competitive”.

Howard could now be found tweaking with suspension settings and tyre pressures and clearly this made a difference as he found 2 seconds on the next run. Simon thought he had this in the bag with a time in the 71s only to find that Paul had set a time only 1.2 seconds slower – clearly now Paul was in the lead – again!

Chris and Simon could be found comparing notes on cornering lines and on Run 3 Simon found another 2 tenths, better but not enough. Howard meantime found nearly another 2 seconds, clearly getting his eye in now. Nick was making similar improvements and was gaining in confidence.

Run 4 was Clive’s turn to set a personal best with a time of 75.08 and Howard found almost 4 seconds, he was flying now. Meanwhile Chris was now down to a 71.89, getting very close to Simon. Would this be the last time Chris would drive the Roadster?

The last 2 to go on this run were Paul and then Simon. Both putting in a concerted effort and Paul left his calling card at the final corner - again - this time in the form of marker cone perfectly positioned in the middle of the track. A DNF for Paul and Simon avoided it but didn't get a re-run. At this stage the order was Paul 1<sup>st</sup>, Simon 2<sup>nd</sup> and Clive 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Another run was announced and both Clive and Paul decided to sit this one out. This left only 4 of us with Howard first off but with no improvement. Next to go was Chris who found another 2 tenths, this being enough to take 3<sup>rd</sup> place off Clive. Simon was next and with Paul watching the clock he was about to unload his car from the trailer but no need, with a time of 70.68 this wasn't enough. Nick was last to go and he clearly was now in the groove and he finished the day with a very respectable 76.88.

When the final scores were calculated, Paul had done it again, this time by only 0.4 points, with Simon 2<sup>nd</sup> and Chris a very close 3<sup>rd</sup>. This time the scores were very close with Nick, although in 6<sup>th</sup>, scoring an impressive 94.2, a score that is often good for a top 3.

A great finish to a great weekend, an event that is now a firm favourite on the calendar.

Simon Baines