

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Venue: Hethel

Date: 24th April 2022

Weather: Sunny and breezy

4 intrepid Speedmoggers headed out east on a very sunny Sunday 24th April to the Hethel sprint organised by Herts County Auto & Aero Club at the Lotus test track in Norfolk. The facility has undergone a complete refurbishment job in the last few years and is now a fast flat circuit with a very smooth surface and plenty of useable concrete kerbs. The event used just over 1.5 of the full 2.2 mile circuit which led to an early start for the track walk and wishing i'd put the bike in the back of the Campervan! To make things interesting in the pace change department, the sprint layout incorporated two chicanes, the first at the midpoint after the fast sweeping Senna curves consisting of a short 'round the cones' type autosolo and then the second, a proper factory built chicane at the end of the long 700m straight just before the last 180 bend and the finish. Certainly much debate ensued during the day in getting the braking points sorted out for both hazards!

After a practice run we were full on into the 4 timed runs. As there were only 69 cars entered, things moved on a pace with little time for the bacon and egg roll and coffee between runs. Simon led the charge after the practice run with my plus 4 more than a few seconds adrift although as the timed runs progressed, we all started to head down a fairly steep learning curve. With a good 20 knot headwind down the long 700m straight, as my windscreen is currently a permanent feature, I experimented first with hood up then hood down to check out the drag, however both resulted in a very similar terminal velocity of 85mph before hitting the braking point of the second chicane. So I continued with the hood down and enjoyed the sunshine. The only mechanical hiccup during the day was suffered by Paul C who's mysterious misfire seemed to improve slightly with a couple more gallons of hydrocarbon in the tank.

The final scores on the doors put Simon numero uno and collecting a well deserved gong at the prize giving, closely followed by Paul C, myself and Paul B, although there was only a 'wafer thin' nine one hundredths of a second between mine and Paul B's target time after the final run.

Overall, a great day out was had by all and those that could not make it, shame on you, you missed a very well organised cracking event so get in on your calendar for 2023!

Many thanks to Brenda who's logging of the times and subsequent working out the 'math' was much appreciated by all.

Andy H