

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2022

Event Report

Venue: Gurston Down

Date: 17th April 2022

Gurston Down is celebrating its 45th year as a Hillclimb venue nestling in the Wiltshire Downs. The course layout is unconventional as a hillclimb with the first section consisting of a fast downhill section, aptly named Hollow, with a left kink at the lowest point before a tight steep double right hand bend named the Karousel, before resuming a more conventional Hillclimb to a flying finish.

We were blessed with excellent weather so what better way could there be for spending a day in the Wiltshire Downs.

The Speedmog contingent consisted of a couple of “newbies” - Simon Baines who had never seen the course before, Andy Hatch - who had taken the wise decision of attending the excellent Gurston Down Hillclimb School beforehand, joined by John B Stephens returning after 8 years away, together with the regulars – James Walter, James and Georgina Dean, Clive Hall and George Proudfoot.

Clive was still getting to grips with his very tidy modified 4/4, fresh from a winter rebuild whilst George was getting accustomed to his rebuilt engine, now resplendent with another 25% more horsepower – where he found those, we will never quite understand.

As 1st practice got underway, it was evident that many were taking things steady although James Dean’s time suggested that there was more afoot than just taking it steady – it transpired that James was suffering an electrical issue and just managed to reach the finish line. Once back in the paddock all was resolved though.

2nd practice thankfully produced no more dramas but it was clear that the regulars were now getting their eye in with both John and Clive posting times only 0.6 seconds away from their final times.

After a relaxing lunchbreak, Timed Run 1 was upon us with steady improvements for many, the only exceptions being JBS - who missed a gear at the Karousel, and Georgina. George was experiencing clutch gremlins but this didn’t stop him finding another second – probably as a result of him taking most of the course flat, as is his way! At this stage it was JBS in 1st despite the missed gear, leading Simon in 2nd closely followed by George in 3rd.



Time to focus on the 2nd and final run.

More improvements for everyone with the exception of Simon who managed, somehow, to record an identical time to Run 1. This allowed George, with his wayward clutch, to find another half second and take the 2nd place. Simon managed to hang on to a joint 3rd place with Clive, whilst James’ Dean and Walter were placed 5th and 6th respectively. Andy Hatch had found nearly a second on his last run to take 7th with Georgina taking the final position.

Simon Baines