

## MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

**Venue:** Harewood

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**Weather:** Damp, very wet & drying

As the long Jubilee Bank Holiday was drawing to an end, 10 intrepid SpeedMoggers made their way to the most Northern event on their calendar. Harewood Hillclimb is located in God's Own County, nestling in the Wharfe Valley between Leeds and Harrogate. Whilst the views can be stunning, red kites circling above and a fantastic view of the longest British hillclimb at 0.9mils, today it was going to damp/moist/wet and cool. It could have been worse but Michele's apple cake would be shared around and consumed outside, whereas many would be having their Jubilee trifle in indoor isolation.

For us, the Baileys, a hawk-eyed scrutineer noticed fluid on the inside of the front chassis rail and wouldn't issue a ticket to compete. A quickly diagnosed leaking inner wing brake pipe fitting – something I had clearly dislodged adjusting the braided line from the caliper was the culprit. It was no wonder the brake pedal had been exhibiting a lack of feel on the drive over! Borrowing a selection of spanners, a willing set of hands from the many offering assistance, a brake bleed and we were soon signed on. Despite this Steve McDonald arrived after all the repairs and also missed a circuit walk. George Proudfoot didn't need to stretch his legs though as he'd been competing and making friends the previous day with Nash & Alvis crews; making the most of his foray up from the South coast.

On a damp track everyone was "slow" and steady for first practice, many complaining about a lack of grip and Rob Stones, in his Roadster upgrade from previous 4/4 and 5 years since last competing on this hill, unsure which gears were the most appropriate. However, it was Clive Glass, settled in with the Classic Marques, who set a stonking 69.84 time – what a pity he'd entered the wrong class.

Before second practice, John Stephens and the Baileys decided it was time for screens and roofs to come off and replace with aeroscreens. And then it started to spit with rain! Not enough though and with the track continuing to dry, apart from Steve (who added a pirouette at the bottom of the hill before the Esses) everyone posted their fastest time of the day. Simon Baines was now showing his full speed, 68.39s despite his tyre warming son racing his Porsche at a rain delayed Cadwell but it was Chris Bailey, 6.28s over handicap who was leading.

First timed runs about to start and it's now drizzling as we line up. With plenty of caution and much concentration we all get back safely as it dries once again. Although all times were slower than first practice it was Clive, running in a later batch, who got the benefit of a drying track and was only 0.33s slower the next nearest being Michele, starting our double drive in a group before, at nearly 3s slower.

With a lunchtime stop the rain returned and the track became considerably wetter. Windscreens and hoods went back on. Simon decided not to run (obviously far too difficult on cold tyres) and everyone predictably posted slower times than R1.

At this point Clive decided he'd done enough to upset us and that the weather would close in further leaving us with no chance of catching him in R3. Pa Housley, Paul Clarke and Rob gave it a good go though, posting their fastest times, before the latter 2 decided it was best to head home.

They were wrong though and the track dried even further for R4. Everyone, except Pa, managed to post their fastest timed runs and finish the day on something of a high. This still wasn't enough to oust Clive "Wrong Class" from first spot (and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Classic Marques), with yours truly (not bitter) in second and John in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Chris Bailey