

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2022

Event Report

Event: Goodwood

Date: 13 August 2022

Weather: Hot, Hot HOT!

Eight Speedmog drivers, and one other lined up to tackle the 2.4mile high speed challenge that is the Eagle Sprint at Goodwood, organised by the Brighton & Hove Motor Club. The day started hot and just got hotter! I don't recall seeing anybody walking the circuit this day!

James Walter, John Stephens, Andy Hatch, Nick Bolton, Georgina Dean, James Dean and Tom Purves took their places in the pits alongside non-championship competitor Bob Searles, in his Plus 8 race car. Clive Hall was pitted elsewhere in his 4/4, surrounded by Caterhams, MX5s and other such fare, something that Clive put down to an 'administrative error' he'd not seen the Morgan Class when entering. This meant that Clive would be running some way ahead of the other Morgans, giving him opportunity to watch his fellow competitors' tackle the famous chicane and cross the line and record their exploits for all to see on the WhatsApp group. That favour was of course reciprocated.

The format of the day was to be one practice, then three competitive runs and practice duly got underway at 9am. Goodwood is fast, at the end of the Lavant Straight all will be travelling as fast as the car will go and all as Woodcote Corner is fast approaching. All successfully completed their practice lap, concluding that there was lots of grip out on the circuit today, so every opportunity to go faster! Unless the heat would sap power from our engines, or energy from the drivers?

The first competitive run got underway before lunch, Clive was red flagged half way along Lavant due to some issue with an earlier car and went for a rerun. That would be on hot tyres, but according to Clive the driver was overheating and he failed to match his practice time of 106.68 seconds. John also went a little slower than practice registering what would turn out to be his fastest competitive run at 119.22 seconds. All others improved on their practice times, notably Nick Bolton knocking 9 seconds off his practice time, Nick returning to sprinting after time spent 'fettling' his Class 9 Roadster. Andy was also taking 'chunks' out of this practice time returning a 112.22 second lap, clearly, he was finding the line in his Plus 4. Georgina and James Walter also posted their best times on this run at 120.83 and 115.16 seconds, respectively.

The Clerk of the Course called a drivers' meeting at lunchtime, a referendum held in true democratic fashion. The question put was not Brexit all over again, but whether the meeting was to be shortened from 3 runs to 2 due to the heat and concerns over the welfare of the Marshalls posted around the circuit. The eyes have it, the eyes have it.... and it was all to play for on the single remaining run.

Clive's time fell to 106.25 seconds, Andy to 111.24, Nick to 110.79, James Dean to 112.22 in the Plus 8 shared with daughter Georgina and Tom carved a further 3 seconds off his first run to end the day on 106.77 seconds. Non-championship runner Bob ended the day on 102.78.

With the all numbers all plugged into the results spreadsheet, the podium positions in the Speedmog Championship, on handicap went to Clive in Third, Andy second and John taking the top step!

Clive Hall