

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2022

Event Report

Venue: Prescott

Date: 1st October 2022

Weather: Sunny

The Bugatti Owners Club brand this event – The Season Finale – and there can be few, if any, more fitting venues to end the season. Nestling in the Cotswolds, with views to take your breath away, the early morning track walk is the perfect way to start the day.

8 Morgans lined up in the paddock for the final round of the MSCC Techniques Championship, 3 of the cars being double driven. Thanks to unseasonably wet weather on the previous day, the track was particularly wet for everyone as the Practice Runs got underway. We were however blessed with clear skies and unbroken sunshine so there was a good dose of optimism that the track would dry as the day progressed.

1st Practice was a cautious affair for everyone with grip in short supply. The same could not be said for the sunlight, this was available in abundance just as you entered the Esses, not ideal! Star performers from this run were Chris Bailey and George Proudfoot, both demonstrating that when it is wet, less (power) is often more (speed). Alan Foster also proved that years of experience of this challenging track can make a difference.

The unpredictable conditions resulted in several stoppages so the morning was slow but this did allow the track to dry.

By the time that we lined up for the 2nd practice, dry patches were appearing but there were still damp areas and sadly one of these caught out James Walter on the entry to Pardon. James was able to return the car to the Orchard Car Park but he was unable to continue.

A extended lunch break ensued before the timed runs got underway. The Morgans were near the end of the running order so, with the track drying as every minute passed, by the time that we were called to the assembly area, conditions had improved considerably.

Predictably, everyone posted significantly faster times and when the times were in, the leader by the smallest of margins was Clive Hall, followed by Simon Baines in 2nd, George Proudfoot in 3rd and Chris Bailey in 4th, the top 4 split by 0.71 seconds. Alan Foster in 5th was leading Chris Baines in 6th by 0.16 seconds whilst Tom Purves in 7th and James Dean in 8th were split by only 0.23 seconds.

Time to relax for one last time before the final run of the season.

Conditions were now perfect and as everyone arrived back in the paddock, some were smiling more than others. Chris Baines was cursing the gearbox of the Roadster, missing a gear off the start and losing valuable tenths, Georgina Dean was clearly pleased having found over 2 seconds, whilst many had managed to find a few tenths. So what of the top 4?

Clive had gone slower whilst the others had all gone faster- it was so close that the laptop had to be fired up.

Winner by a margin of 0.02 seconds was George with Simon 2nd and Chris Bailey in 3rd. Clive was 4th with Alan Foster in 5th, 0.3 seconds slower. Tom Purves was 6th just pipping Chris Baines by 0.1 seconds, 8th was James Dean with Michele Bailey in 9th and Georgina in 10th.

A great end to a great season with close competition all the way. Bring on 2023.

Simon Baines