

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2023

Event Report

Venue: Curborough

Date: 23rd April 2023

Weather: wet, damp, very wet, damp and very wet again.

St George's Day and Drive it Day did not dawn clear and bright. In fact it was the complete opposite, cool, damp and misty. However 9 slightly soggy but enthusiastic SpeedMoggers arrived at Curborough hoping for an improvement in the weather.

There were introductions and welcomes to three newcomers: Jane Peck and Philip Cowpland were on their second events, and Jim Andrews was on his first. We had plenty of room in the paddock, as we had been allocated double parking spaces, however due to the dampness of the weather we congregated around and in Rob Stones' conveniently parked trailer.

We were the last class out so we were hoping that the other competitors would create a dry line for us. It didn't happen; there were a few spins and offs as the circuit was wet from the overnight rain. As Chris and I were double driving Chris was first Morgan out. He reported that it was quite slippery and to take it easy; concentrate on your lines he told me. James was next out and he proved Chris correct with a spin near the Molehill. Fortunately he stayed on the black stuff and recorded a time.

Paul and Simon didn't seem to be bothered by the damp, but the rest of us were cautious. The brownies were broken out to help calm us down!

It seemed an age until second practice, which fortunately meant that the circuit did dry out quite a lot, as the weather improved and the other cars created a dry line. Most of us made the most of the opportunity and posted our fastest practice times. Jim managed almost the same time as first practice and unfortunately Philip took a different figure of 8 to the rest of us. Simon and Chris were slightly slower - not sure what those two were doing to be honest.

Lunch came and so did the rain. We stayed dry in Rob's trailer. Jane suggested a cocktail bar would be a good addition to the 'disco' type lights. Our first timed run was in the pouring rain. When Chris asked if I wanted the hood up I declined - not my best decision of the day, but we managed with our brollies.



Paul Clarke at the Molehill

James managed a time which was slightly faster than second practice, and said he had driven slower and recorded a faster time! The rest of us were all slower by varying amounts, some small and some not so small. After first timed run it appeared to be between Paul and Chris, well that's what Baron Baines told us all.

Eventually the rain stopped, the wind picked up and so did our hopes of a drier final run. Our luck was in – we even had a few rays of sunshine to help. There was a benefit to being the last class out. Philip had a moment and was the only one not to post his fastest time of the day. The improvements in times varied from a few seconds to 14.



Philip's moment!

As we packed up the rain came down yet again, and I suspect we were all damp on the way home. Well done everyone and I hope you all enjoyed it as much as the Baileys did.

Final results were:

- 1 Chris Bailey
- 2 Michele Bailey (unbelievable!!)
- 3 Simon Baines.

I celebrated (big style with a glass of Prosecco and a WhatsApp video with Chris) when I arrived home!



Michele Bailey