

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2023

Event Report

Venue: Aintree

Date: 24th June 2023

Aintree circuit was the venue of the historic 1955 British Grand Prix when Sir Stirling Moss beat Juan Manuel Fangio to the chequered flag. The circuit used for the Liverpool Motor Club Aintree Sprint uses a section of the historic Grand Prix track starting after Cottage Corner and finishing midway down the Railway Straight. The course consists of only 3 corners, 1 left and 2 rights and whilst it may sound straightforward, the reality is somewhat more challenging.

This challenge always attracts several Morgans and this year was no exception. Regulars Chris and Michele Bailey, George Proudfoot, Rob Stones, Paul Clarke and a jet lagged Simon Baines, were joined by newbie Nick Bolton.

The weather was dry and warm and was forecast to only get warmer. The course configuration allows cars to leave the start line every 20 seconds so the day is always fast paced. Today was to be no exception. Practice runs were soon completed and we were recording timed runs by mid morning. A glitch with the on line timing data meant that we had no idea of our collective times until lunch was called, by which time we had completed 3 timed runs.

Simon retired to his car to do the number crunching and he came back with results showing how close the competition was.

Paul was leading Simon by a mere 0.01 points. Michele was leading Nick Bolton by only 0.3 points and improving with every run. George was struggling with a lack of damping at the rear due to fractured damper mountings but, undeterred by this he was experimenting with different setups which were slowly delivering improvements. Rob Stones was unfortunately suffering an intermittent misfire - Aintree is not the place where you can live with a misfire. Nick Bolton on the other hand, was chipping away on every run and the results were coming to him.

After lunch, the pace of the event resumed and most, but not all, managed improvements over their morning times. Paul was clearly on a mission and managed to secure a clear lead over Simon who could not repeat his time from Run 3. Chris managed to find another second that secured him 3rd place. George had continued to tweak his setup and was rewarded with a 4th place whilst Nick had been improving throughout the day and secured a well earned 5th place just pipping Michele who finished 6th.

Another excellent event organised by Liverpool Motor Club, there can be few venues where you get 6 timed runs and finish the day feeling there was nothing left on the table. We will be back!

Simon Baines