

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2023

Venue: Lydden Hill Sprint

Date: 15th July 2023

It is many years since the Speedmog series visited the Lydden Hill circuit in Kent, just south of Canterbury.

The track is the shortest road circuit in the UK being just one mile in length and is probably unique in that the amphitheatre setting is ideal for spectating as it gives the opportunity to see practically all the action. Despite the short length it has a complex ingredient of gradients cambers and bends which makes it technically challenging and far from easy to learn.

Seven Morgans were entered. Jane Peck, Jim Andrews, Paul Bryan and George Proudfoot were driving 4/4's, Alan Foster and Philip Cowpland were in + 8's and Andy Hatch was in his +4.

The day started cloudy after overnight rain but the threatened wet weather did not materialise and the setting of the venue gave some protection from the high winds which swept the South of the country.

The format of the meeting was one practice and four timed runs, each consisting of one and three quarter laps.

Being near the end of the running order in a very full paddock meant that the track was dry and grippy for our practice run. Things did not go well however as George's series 1 4/4 suffered a total loss of drive and braking at the high speed approach to the Devils Elbow bend and hit the gravel trap hard, fortunately, to the relief of those watching, landing on four wheels. We were very glad to see that George was not hurt but the car will need extensive repair and will be garaged for quite a while. We wish George well and hope to see him back in competition before too long.

After practice there were four competitive runs with improvements all round, notably for Jim who bettered his practice time by over eight seconds. Philip overcame the trauma of a spin on his second run after what looked like a successfully quick negotiation of Paddock bend to record the day's fastest Morgan time of 91.93 seconds on his last run just ahead of Paul's 92.90. Alan was next quickest followed by Andy, Jim and Jane.

Andy drove well throughout the day and was a comfortable winner on handicap, with his fastest time of 96.11.

Thanks to Borough 19 Motor Club for a well organised meeting which hopefully we can visit again.

Paul Bryan