

## MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2023

**Venue:** Gurston Down

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Gurston Down is a tricky one to get right with a fast 70 mph plus downhill left hand sweep through Hollow before sharp braking into the slow and steep uphill Karousel complex and then a fast and gently rising section where maintaining momentum is paramount to get a good finish time. Although this is my 4th outing at the venue, there are always things to learn - as they say, everyday is a school day.

Five Morgans readied themselves for a good bank-holiday Sunday's entertainment. Alan in his Plus 8, James and myself in Plus 4's, Jane in her 4/4 and the veritable George in his recently rebuilt pre-war green machine. The weather forecast looked promising, a dry breezy day with sunny periods and maybe a spot or two of rain around lunchtime.

The first practice went without too much drama, although George hit the outside rumble at the top of Karousel which promoted a bit of misfire. Meanwhile Alan was having a bit of a challenge with the intermittent electrics on his power steering. However, all credit to Jane to lead the field in getting the 4/4 over the first 64ft the quickest, a feat that she repeated during the day. The second practice proved beneficial with all of us slicing off a few tenths on a warming track.

After too many pasties for lunch, the inevitable occurred with over half the fleet clocking times slower than our second practice - lesson to be learnt here! Meanwhile Alan had collected further headaches with a faulty starter motor leaving no option but to park at the top of the paddock hill for the final run to ensure a good bump start. The last run had improving times for both myself and Jane, and although myself and James were within sight, it was not enough to de-thrown George of yet another Gurston mountain king title - well done George!

Overall, a great day out in the country and a pity that Tom had to cancel at the last moment - his company was missed. Roll on Shelsey in 3 weeks!

Andy Hatch