

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2024

Venue: Hethel Sprint

Date: 14th April 2024

There were 7 Morgans competing at the second round of the Speed Championship at the Lotus test track with the Frow +4 Supersport being shared by father and daughter David and Ella.

The paddock was surrounded by seemingly acres of the latest Lotuses under white wraps presumably destined for offshore buyers but strictly not for photographs.

The weather was bright with a cool breeze and conditions looked good for the standard format of one practice and four competitive runs on this superb fast and well surfaced circuit.

Most of us were fairly cautious in practice but last year's champion, Paul Clarke, was already setting a fast time more than 4 seconds quicker than everyone else.

The first competitive run was following the same pattern but all was to change after an oil pipe in an engine of a Lotus Elise became dislodged as the car was powering down the long back straight and there was an oil slick on the tarmac extending for some 200 yards up to just before a sharp chicane.

The Lotus company is rightly proud of its track and does not appreciate damage and indeed will charge organising clubs or drivers for the cost of any repairs.

Spillages of this nature are normally dealt with by brushing cement dust on the track to absorb the liquid but only electric brooms were on site and no convenient source of electricity was available.

So marshalls worked hard to scatter cement dust and the organisers, the clerk of the course and Lotus discussed how the meeting could continue.

The solution was to cone off half the width of the affected part of the back straight, discount that part of the first competitive run which had taken place and have a second practice and 3 competitive runs. This would allow the excess dust to be disbursed but more importantly give drivers the chance to re-assess the approach and braking point for the chicane on a much narrower track.

The meeting re-started and Paul Clarke's day suddenly went wrong as his car developed a fuelling problem halfway around the course and he was forced to retire without being able to register a competitive time.

The day then developed into a very close competition between the other seven Morgan drivers with times coming down all round.

Steve McDonald set an unbeatable time on run 2 and Philip Cowpland posted his best time of just over the 100 second mark also on this run to move into second place on handicap which he maintained on run 3 despite strong improvements from Andy Hatch, Nick Bolton and David and Ella Frow.

Ella was particularly delighted to beat David and secure a third place trophy in only her second competition.

Paul Bryan



Team Speedmog. Picture by Andy Hatch