

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2024

Harewood Hillclimb

9th June 2024

11 SpeedMoggers in 9 cars arrived at a, theme for the day, cold and windy Harewood; welcome to summer in West Yorkshire. 3 had competed on Saturday, George Proudfoot, Phil Cowpland and Jane Peck, and had a successful (if cold) day, all setting personal best times! The gauntlet had been thrown down.....

The Morgans were in the first batch of cars out onto the hill (which meant early arrival and preparation before scrutineering), except for Ella Frow and me, as we were double driving with dad David Frow and husband Chris Bailey respectively, and consequently we were in batch 2.



First practice run proved interesting for Ella, who went straight on at Country Corner; fortunately, no damage to car or driver. During second practice run, Clive Glass tried to take a short cut, missing out the long bend at Farmhouse and getting straight onto the final corner at Quarry.

Clive Glass staying on the track

Unsurprisingly with a gravel trap and a lot of grass in the way, he was unsuccessful and had the ignominy of being hauled out over the gravel (which he had skipped over in his quest) in full view of all the spectators. Again, no damage to car or driver.

We then had a long wait for first timed run; a competitor had taken a deep excursion into the green stuff and after what felt like half an hour the practice runs recommenced. And then organisers called an early lunch!

During the lunch break there was cake cutting to celebrate Phil's 60th (yes he is that old!) birthday on the day, and George's 80th birthday a couple of months ago.



The day wasn't getting any warmer as we began the timed runs. Steve MacDonald had joined us, but as a spectator and photographer since he'd been too slow to get his entry in for this high demand weekend. The competition was close at the top, with Simon Baines, Chris and Clive separated by not much, hotly pursued by Phil, Paul Clarke (unusually slightly off the leaders' pace) and George.

Birthday Boy Philip Cowpland

Further down the field David and Ella were having a battle for Frow supremacy, with Nick Bolton keeping them on their toes. George was keeping his foot flat in his usual style but frustrated that he was failing to be as quick as Saturday.

Second timed runs proved interesting for Phil who managed to spin twice on the same run, and Ella who went straight on at the entry to the Esses at the bottom of the hill. No damage to either and both posted times, although slower than they had been going. We were all hoping to have a third run, in a final attempt to improve our times.



Fortunately, a number of non-Morgan competitors had departed and a third timed run was on! It was still cold and windy. David, Ella, George and Simon all managed their fastest times of the day, with the rest of us slower, although not by much. Ella won the battle of the Frows. Special mention of Jane who took 10 seconds off her time at Harewood last year, which is most impressive and proves there's nothing like a bit of experience.

Chris Bailey taking the Esses

Top three at the end of the day were:

1. Chris Bailey
2. Joint - Simon Baines and Clive Glass

Birthday Boy Phil was 4th which he was very happy with.

Well done everyone in cold and windy circumstances.

Michele Bailey –

Photos provided by Steve McDonald.