

## MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2024

### Curborough Sprint Weekend

29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Curborough Sprint Track near Lichfield is a compact yet challenging course that consists of 2 configurations, the “Figure of 8” and the conventional “2 Lapper”.

Nottingham Sports Car Club had organised a Double Header event and such was the popularity of the venue that the paddock was full on both days.

Saturday saw 8 Speedmoggers lining up in the busy paddock to tackle the Figure of 8 Circuit.

Regulars Simon Baines, James Walter, George Proudfoot, David Frow and Jim Andrews were joined by Curborough rookies Gareth Davies, Clive Nicholls and last but not least, Ella Frow.



After track walks to understand the cross over format it was soon time for the one and only practice. A couple of small dramas as Clive and Ella misjudged the long Paddock Bend but both managed to recover and record a time.

As lunch approached, we lined up for the first timed run. George was eager to lay down a marker but ran wide exiting the Molehill whilst James Andrews had a similar grassy moment on the approach to Molehill so both earned a NTR. The Frows were split by just 0.02 seconds with Ella ahead, whilst the remainder recorded good improvements over their practice times.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Timed run produced more improvements, George now had a time on the board but was now being troubled by a misfire, Jim Andrews was now back on track and the Frows were still battling it out but with Ella now widening the gap. Clive Nicholls was now getting his eye in and recorded his fastest time of the day. James Walter however, had a spin on the exit of Paddock Bend.





Thanks to everyone keeping it on the track, there were few delays so we managed a 3<sup>rd</sup> and final Timed Run.

Simon managed to take only 0.2 seconds off his previous time, whilst George still battling with his misfire, despite plenty of head scratching in the paddock, managed to take 3 seconds off his practice time.

Gareth Davies

Gareth was spotted exceeding track limits so didn't get a time, Jim Andrews saved his best till last and all eyes were then on the battle of the Frows. First to go was David who found another second, lowering his time to a 72.08 leaving Ella the last to go. By the 1<sup>st</sup> split, just before Fradley Hairpin she was 1.4 seconds ahead but then had a "moment" at the Fradley hairpin. Quick reactions kept things pointing forward and undeterred, she finished her run, recording a time of 71.03 seconds.

The final results were -

- 1<sup>st</sup> Simon Baines
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ella Frow
- 3<sup>rd</sup> David Frow

Photos provided by David Burridge



On the Sunday morning, the Morgan entry consisted of Simon Baines, James Walter, George Proudfoot, Gareth Davies, Clive Nicholls and Paul Clarke. The circuit today would be the 2 Lapper configuration.

George was up early and had replaced most of his ignition system in search of his elusive misfire and lack of power so he could only hope that all was now sorted. The weather gods were not helping today though, periods of light drizzle provided a distraction, although the grip was still there.

Clive Nicholls

The practice runs went without any drama and we then awaited our 1<sup>st</sup> timed run. Meanwhile, George was now focussing on the fuel system as the misfire was still there, albeit only intermittently.



In typical fashion, when we lined up for the 1<sup>st</sup> timed runs, the drizzle appeared again so whilst times were improved for most, there was still an element of caution being displayed.

The top 3 – Simon, George and Paul were all within a few tenths so it was far from over. A couple of delays meant we had lost valuable time so it soon became apparent that we would only get 2 timed runs.

The search for the misfire continues

After a long and tense wait, we were called for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final timed run and now conditions were perfect. Everyone made significant improvements so after a period of number crunching, the final results were –

- 1<sup>st</sup>     Simon Baines
- 2<sup>nd</sup>     George Proudfoot
- 3<sup>rd</sup>     Paul Clarke

Gareth Davies came a respectable 4<sup>th</sup>, just pipping James Walter and the battle of the 4/4 's was won by Jim Andrews.

Photos provided by Brian Lee