

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Aintree Grand National Circuit

31 August 2024

Weather: officially cracking the flags

The annual SpeedMog visit to Aintree started earlier than usual for some, with David and Ella Frow posting pictures of them both attending a pre-sprint 'bash' the night before, in a pub, involving a band and beers! More of that later. They were still at the circuit before almost everyone else, anticipating a 7.30am track walk, which took place somewhat later than that.

There were 7 steeds with 9 pilots at this former grand prix circuit, raced on by the famous Sir Stirling Moss, Fangio and others back in the day, and which is contained within the Grand National horse circuit; we needed to keep an eye on those jumps! There was also Dave Everett in his Plus 8, a member of Liverpool Motor Club and known to several SpeedMoggers, but not competing with us in the Speed Championship.

This was not the final sprint of the season, but if Simon Baines won then the Championship would be his. It was down to Chris Bailey to keep the competition going; if he won then, mathematically, he could still win the Championship – how exciting, and no pressure! It wasn't going to be easy either with Paul Clarke present, the current champion and winner at Aintree last year, and also George Proudfoot, who can never be discounted. Clive Glass and the very competitive Phil Cowpland would keep everyone on their toes.

The weather really was cracking the flags, as practice runs commenced. Jono Baines was competing in his Renault Clio and reported that the circuit was fast – very fast. The intention of the organisers was to have 2 practice runs and 1 timed run before lunch. This was just managed with a long interval while a competitor was retrieved from somewhere near Beechers.

After the first timed run it was close at the top; Paul (despite having a misfire on his car) was leading from Simon, with Clive in 3rd and Chris 4th. David was ahead in the Frow family battle. The lunch break then took place, with David and Ella making the most of it trying to have recuperative snoozes in the shade.



During the lunch break, Judy Glass put in a special guest appearance; it was good to see her.

Everyone, except George and I, posted faster times in the second run. It was still close at the top, with Simon now leading, while Paul, Chris and Clive were separated by a gnat's whisker. Ella was now ahead of David, and Phil was steadily chipping off those seconds.

Run 3 saw Clive go a tad quicker, Chris and Simon were both a tad slower and Paul was still battling the misfire. George and I both posted quicker times, and then we were onto the 4th and final timed run.

Phil, George and I all found our fastest times of the day, as did Ella with a splendid run. Clive and Paul were a few tenths quicker, while David and Simon were a few tenths slower. Chris managed not only his fastest time of the day, but also a new PB, to snatch the victory and keep the Championship going

to the next round. It was all very close throughout the field, which proves that the Baines Einstein power to weight thingy works!!

Results:

- 1 Chris Bailey
- 2 Simon Baines
- 3 Clive Glass
- 4 Ella Frow

The Frows celebrated in the same way they had prepared - in the pub!

Well done everyone for a cracking day's sprinting; all of us scored over 90 points.

Michele Bailey