

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Shelsley Walsh

15 September 2024

Weather: dry and sunny, wet after lunch.

Shelsley Walsh is the oldest motorsport venue in the world, set in glorious Worcestershire countryside, and a late event in the SpeedMog calendar. Potentially the championship could be won here, even though Simon ‘the Baron’ Baines wasn’t competing. We could be in for an interesting day’s competition.

There were 10 SpeedMoggers entered, with 3 double drives of the Baileys, the Merediths and James and Georgina Dean out for the first time this season in their Plus 8.



Andy Cole in his very pretty Supersports was making his SpeedMog debut after suffering illness at Loton. But wait! What was this? A new Morgan prototype from the factory – MogMito? Or perhaps MitoMog? No – it was Tom Meredith’s Mito, which was being shared with dad Mike, after Mike broke the brake calipers on the family Plus 8.

Speedmog Debutant Andy Cole at the Bottom Esses

The weather was looking good, which was fortunate as Shelsley seemed to have ‘lost’ the three sheds of James Walter, the Deans and Phil Cowpland, all of whom were parked in the open where the sheds should have been.

MAC were well organised and first practice runs started promptly at 9am. We were towards the back of the field, with James D, Me and Tom in batch 4; everyone else was in batch 5. Most had uneventful runs except Mike, Chris and Phil. The red flags come out but no-one knew why. Mike came back down the hill for a rerun, and I was hoping Chris hadn’t had an incident as I was supposed to be driving home in Buzz, our Plus 4. No, it wasn’t Chris and he arrived back in the driver change area to announce all was well but that Phil had run out of fuel at the top of the hill.



James and Georgina Dean

Despite that Phil did get a time! He then spent the rest of the day topping up the fuel tank in his Plus 8 after each run, presumably one pint at a time?

The rest of practice went smoothly with everyone, except Jim Andrews, improving their times. Simon arrived, presumably to keep an eye on results and the Championship? Special guest visit this week was Nigel 'Pa' Housley; looking trim and well. It was good to see him and catch up.



Lunchtime arrived and so did the rain. It started slowly and then got heavier. The three shedless Mogs sensibly moved into some empty ones the other side of Andy.

First timed runs for those of us in batch 4 were pretty wet; I even took the umbrella up with me as there is no cover at the top of the hill.



Times were of course slower, although Phil was only 3 seconds, James W less than 4 seconds and Jim about 1 second slower than their dry runs, impressive. The Baron then fired up his laptop to see who was where - and where the Championship might be heading. Phil was on top of the pile, with everyone else very close together behind him. Georgina was less than a second behind dad James, and keeping him on his toes.

When the rain came!

So to the final run of the day in slightly less wet circumstances. Phil was a bit slower, and Chris was much quicker which had the Baron scurrying off to his laptop. Almost everyone else was quicker.

Final results were:

1 Phil Cowpland

2 Chris Bailey

3 James Walter

And so the 2024 Championship winner is Simon The Baron Baines – or is it? Just when we think it is all over, apparently it isn't!

Michele Bailey