

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Prescott Hillclimb

6th October 2024

Weather: Overcast, cold

The final event of a busy season brought 12 Speedmoggers to the scenic and challenging Prescott Hillclimb in the Cotswolds.

After a week of changeable weather conditions the weekend was forecast as dry but with rain on the horizon. With the championship leader decided, there were still points up for grabs for many of the competitors. Making use of the Saturday event to gain additional track time, Alan Foster, Philip Cowpland and George Proudfoot had been getting their eye in to ensure that by Sunday morning, they were fully focussed on the day ahead.

Andy Cole was making his Prescott debut and was putting into practice, everything he had learned from an earlier Driving School Day.

The 1st practice was a cautious run for everyone with damp patches in evidence at both the Ettore's Hairpin and through the Esses. 2nd practice was a similar affair with only marginal gains for most, the weather leaving a track surface that was relatively cold and offering little grip.

Due to an uncharacteristically quiet paddock for a season finale, the lunch break was called early with a lengthy break for all marshals and competitors. The Morgans were towards the end of the running order so we were all watching the horizon for the approaching rainfall but it wasn't to be. The 1st timed run was the chance to put a marker down and when everyone was safely back in the paddock, the results were Phil Cowpland in a strong 1st place with a time 1.5secs quicker than his Practice 2, followed by Simon Baines in 2nd and James Dean in 3rd. Jane Peck had found over 3.5 seconds from her practice time and was well on track to beat her target of 70 seconds by the end of the day.

After another lengthy wait, with the sun breaking through the clouds, the Morgans were finally called to the assembly area. The final results showed good improvements for many, including Andy Hatch, Paul Clarke, George Proudfoot, James Andrews and James Dean. Rob Stones, making his welcome return since May, had found 3 seconds from his previous run but as the final results were calculated, the winner by a significant margin was Phil Cowpland, James Dean was in 2nd and Paul Clarke in 3rd dropping Simon Baines to 4th.

A great end to another highly competitive season, roll on 2025 when we start again.

Simon Baines.