

MSCC TECHNIQUES SPEED CHAMPIONSHIP

Venue: Gurston Down, Wiltshire.

Date: 27th April 2025

Weather: Warm, sunny,

B.A.R.C. SW CENTRE welcomed us to Gurston Down for the first Southern Hillclimb of 2025.

Widely recognised as one of the best hill climb venues in the UK. At 957 metres, the track holds the unique characteristic of descending off the start – something that only adds to the spectacle for competitors and spectators alike.

There were five Morganeers entered in this event:

No.		SpeedMog Class	Model
27	James Andrews	1	4/4
28	Phil Cowpland	9	+8
29	George Proudfoot	1H	4/4
30	James Walter	6	+4
31	Neil Duncanson	1	4/4

The early birds drove through some thick mist as they approached Gurston. This soon cleared and the sun came out. The track was dry and the sky was blue.

Four of us were ready for First Practice starting at 8:30. Phil had not arrived. As usual we were all taking it steadily on this run, but there was some excessive wheelspin off the line. Neil did well for his first time at this hill.

Just before Second Practice, Phil arrived. He had been competing at Mallory on Saturday and missed his alarm call by several hours. With the assistance of several very helpful marshalls and scrutineers, he was ready to go in the nick of time. Everyone improved by a couple of seconds on this run, but there was still room for more improvement.

A long break for lunch, lounging in the sun and then the first timed runs began at 1pm.

On Run 1 Phil knocked off several seconds, Neil and James W. one second each. George was stuck on 48 seconds (same as yesterday) and James A. on a par with practice. On handicap Neil was scoring 100% and Phil 99.9%. So the last run, as usual, was crucial.

On Run 2 James A. was stuck on 49 seconds, George on 48 and James W. on 45.

Phil shaved off 0.37 seconds and achieved 85mph across the finish line. Neil improved by 0.66 seconds and did 60mph. On handicap could that possibly turn the tables? Class 9 v. Class 1. Answer No. But it was close.

A great day out in the English countryside in glorious sunshine (in April?)

James Walter

Results on handicap:

- 1st Neil Duncanson
- 2nd Phil Cowpland
- 3rd George Proudfoot

