

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Debden

10th May 2025

Weather: Sunshine, Hot.

Debden Sprint is held at the airfield of the former RAF Debden, an airfield that saw plenty of action during World War Two, initially with the RAF and later with the USAAF. The airfield continued to be used thereafter by the MOD and hence, it has remained almost completely intact. Herts County Auto & Aero Club always design a track that is fast, challenging and requires precision to get the best out of each run. This is achieved by the judicious use of cones to introduce several twists and turns on what would otherwise be a relatively simple course around an airfield. The result is a course that has fast and slow corners, chicanes, blind corners, all with plenty of run off, essentially everything you could hope for.



The course for this year was a development of last year's course and as such it isn't possible to compare times from previous seasons. Four Speedmoggers lined up in the paddock, Howard Burton fresh from a busy Saturday at Wiscombe, Paul Bryan, Paul Clarke and Simon Baines.

With only 1 practice available, most were taking it carefully to learn the course layout although Paul Clarke did record an impressive 109.88, a good 5 seconds quicker than Simon Baines.

Timed Run 1 and the cones soon took their toll. Paul C hit 3 cones incurring a 15 second penalty, and Howard hit a single cone adding 5 seconds to his time. Meanwhile Paul B and Simon were progressing, Paul finding 5 secs and Simon – 11 seconds.

Timed Run 2 was a better behaved affair by all, Paul Bryan finding another 6 seconds and Paul Clarke finding 1 second. Over lunchtime, due to a track surface degradation, the organisers elected to move the Apex cone at Mustang Corner and this resulted in another Practice Run to ensure the new lines were understood.



The timed runs resumed with Run 3, with Simon and Paul Bryan producing their fastest times, although Howard wrong routed on the main runway. The final Timed Run 4 saw a big improvement from Paul Clarke, taking 1.5 seconds off his previous time and Howard saving his best till last.

The final standings were Simon in 1st place, Paul Clarke took a well earned 2nd place and Paul B took 3rd.

This event, organised by Herts County Auto & Aero Club always provides excellent value for money, a track that is over 1.5 miles long and thanks to the nature of the circuit, always provides plenty of runs, thus producing excellent value for money.

Definitely an event that will remain in the calendar for 2026.

All images are courtesy of Nick Salmon.

Simon Baines