

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship

Harewood

8th June 2025

Weather: Overcast, Dry

Harewood Hillclimb is the longest hillclimb course in the UK. The challenge doesn't go unnoticed with a paddock full to bursting each year and this year was no exception with 11 Speedmoggers parking up in our now familiar spot at the top of the paddock.

A notable feature of Harewood is the stunning views of the Red Kites soaring overhead whilst we wait in the paddock. However, with a pessimistic weather forecast predicting showers by lunchtime, eyes were focussed further afield. Would this be a day of 2 halves?

It was great to see 4 shared drives amongst the Speedmoggers, Harewood regulars Chris and Michele Bailey were joined by David and Ella Frow, Mike and Tom Meredith and finally James and Georgina Dean.



Completing the Speedmog entry were Simon Baines, Paul Clarke and Steve McDonald.

The Deans and Tom Meredith were all experiencing Harewood for the first time. Added to this the organisers introduced a change to the double drive procedure whereby the 2nd drivers were running in a later batch allowing the majority of us to complete our runs and then watch the double runners, a rare but entertaining opportunity.

A stranger to these parts - James and Georgina Dean

1st practice was a steady affair for everyone to familiarise themselves with the conditions although we soon became aware of Chris Bailey's intentions as he recorded a time that was only 0.8 seconds slower than his fastest time. 2nd practice and everyone was trying harder with favourable results although Tom and Ella were already exploring the limits with minor offs but no harm done. After an early lunch break where Simon was presented with a Birthday Cake to officially welcome him to the Oldtimers brigade, it was time to get down to business for the 1st Timed Run. Significant improvements were achieved by the Harewood newbies, James Dean found over 2 seconds from his 1st practice whilst Georgina found nearly 6 seconds.



Mike Meredith produces the save of the day

Due to the double runners running later, they were caught by a brief shower but this didn't dampen their enthusiasm. Mike Meredith managed a 66.05 secs thanks to an impressive save whilst approaching Orchard. Meanwhile James, Ella and Michele all managed improvements from their practice times. Positions after Run 1, Mike in 1st, Chris in 2nd and Simon and Ella joint 3rd. Timed Run 2 produced another set of impressive times, Mike managed to improve on his time by only 0.01 secs but without the heroics, whilst Tom now broke into the 69's with an impressive 69.28 secs. Simon managed to find 5th gear twice whilst approaching Farmhouse Bend leaving him studying the splits and rueing what might have been. Georgina was now getting to grips with the track and found another 2 seconds. Meanwhile Chris found almost 1 second, stealing 1st place off Mike, whilst Ella was now safely in 3rd with Simon in 4th.



However, it wasn't time to pack up just yet. There was still time for a 3rd run if everything went to plan. Plenty of pacing of the paddock until we finally got the call. Chris managed a 70.49 secs, whilst Simon was now looking confident with a time of 66.34 secs which placed him in 3rd for now. However, Tom was reporting that the car didn't feel right and this was confirmed when Mike couldn't get off the start line due to a transmission failure. James Dean managed a repeat of his previous time while Ella snatched 3rd place back with another second found.

Chris Bailey on his way to the 1st Place

The last to run was Michele who recorded another personal best, one of several this season.

A great day's competition with impressive performances all round.

Simon Baines