

## MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2024

**Venue:** Debden Sprint

**Date:** 12h May 2024

Five Morgans made the journey to Essex for the 8th event in the Speedmog calendar on Sunday 12th May at Debden. The forecast was dry, warm and sunny and competition was hotting up to get into the coveted places at the top of the Speedmog leaderboard as the championship neared its half way stage. Although we were a mixed bag at Debden of Jane Peck's road going 4/4, the track prepared 4/4 of Paul Bryan, my road going Plus 4, Phil Cowpland's Plus 8 and Paul Clarke's Roadster V6 Lightweight, we were all competing on a normalised power to weight basis, so the event was wide open.

The Debden track is unique in the calendar insomuch that the track is set out on the former runways and perimeter track of an old WW2 airfield with the circuit defined largely by traffic cones, necessitating a greater degree of 'navigation' by the driver whilst leaving fairly generous runoff areas should things get a little too ambitious.

In addition to the normal early morning track walk, the organisers felt it to be prudent for all competitors to join a 'batched' convoy run around the circuit to avoid any wrong turns and to help keep things moving during the event.



Not surprisingly, Speedmog's 2023 champion Paul C in his V6 Roadster led the charge during the practice run with a healthy 10 second margin over second place Paul B in his track prepared 4/4, leaving the rest of the pack wondering if this may turn out to be a one horse race. However it was not to be as the Roadster's radiator burst a weld on the first timed run liberating plenty of coolant over the track, giving Paul C the opportunity for an early bath and wondering if the '24 season could be a tad more challenging than previous. Other than Paul B who momentarily parked his 4/4 the wrong side of the cones on the penultimate corner, the rest of the fleet put in healthy improvements, particularly Jane in her 4/4 taking a well driven 10 seconds off her practice time.



After a prolonged gap in proceedings, the remaining four Speedmoggers lined up for the second timed run and it was that crafty chap Phil Cowpland in his well thumbed Plus 8 who set the blistering pace and heading for the double over the weekend after already cleaning up the day before at the Wiscombe Hillclimb. Unfortunately Jane's progress march came to an abrupt halt when she collected a DSQ from the Clerk of the Course for sneaking around the wrong side of a few cones. So it was all to play for with the final timed run and the pressure was full on between Phil, Paul B and myself. Both Phil and myself sneaked out early in the event's running order and although Phil knocked off another second, I managed to take off a little over two which placed me a smidge in-front of Phil on corrected time. However, the big question was would Paul B snatch victory on the third run? However, it was not to be as he finished the run with a DSQ having taken an inadvertent shortcut, thus when all the reckoning was done, I managed to gain the top dog slot for the day, Phil second, Paul B third, Jane fourth and Paul C not placed.

Overall, a great event in the Essex sunshine and a good time was had by all, and many thanks to Brenda Bryan for keeping us all straight with the maths.

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