

MSCC Techniques Speed Championship 2024

Trac Mons, Ty Croes, Anglesey.

4th and 5th May 2024

Forget your fiddly hills, narrow run offs, and boulder-strewn undergrowth. Instead, think of glorious views, a fast grippy track, ample run-offs, and an opportunity to stretch the legs of every size of Morgan imaginable. Trac Mons has the lot and, after a fun-filled weekend, the views of Yr Wyddfa and the rest of the Snowdonia mountain range on the journey home are quite simply breathtaking. Yes, I know it's a long way for some of you to travel, but it really is worth the effort, and the MG Car Club North West branch, as always, put on a slick, fast moving event.

I missed last season due to injury so it was great to finally be back in the saddle, along with seven other hardy souls who'd made the journey; a special mention to Paul Bryan (Colchester) and George Proudfoot (Fareham) whose journeys are both, according to Google maps, exactly the same distance (254 miles). Look it up yourselves – I don't just make this rubbish up you know!!!

Anyway, getting down to the nitty gritty, the Saturday event was run over two laps of the National circuit, so a single 2-lap practice, with Sunday a single lap of the full International circuit, (two separate practice runs) which includes the lengthy run between Church and Rocket, where cars invariably get up to maximum revs in top gear.

Saturday 4th May – National Circuit.

Saturday didn't start well as we'd had light rain overnight and the circuit was wet and slippery in practice, although things did dry out and times tumbled as the day progressed. A lot of people were caught out by the tight left hander at Rocket, but I won't embarrass Paul Clarke, Howard Burton, and Simon Baines by mentioning names. We were joined for the day by Jonno 'Junior' Baines in his Clio Sport, but at least he had sat nav so managed not to get lost or fall off the track. It was his first day without reins so we told him that, as long as he was good, he could stay up the whole day!!

By the time we got to the first timed runs before lunch, the track had begun to dry and Simon set the pace with a 132.90, with me on a 147.25, Phil Cowpland in third with a 151.52, and Rob Stones fourth with a 152.27. A cracked top radiator mount was a niggle for Paul Clarke in

5th, so it wasn't just the car emitting steam...Paul Bryan's car remains at a disadvantage being included in Class 9 and he was 7th, behind George Poundofruit, and Howard Burton in 8th. Howard's return to sprinting after a big off at Loton is to be applauded, and it won't be long before he gets his Mojo back!!



After a relaxing lunch we had two further runs in the afternoon. Paul C affected a temporary radiator cure with some Radweld, and the second timed runs saw Simon lower the mark to 126.64, me on 131.84, and Paul Clarke on a 133.66.

Clive Glass rounding Rocket

Everyone set times that were a good few seconds quicker as confidence grew on a dry track. The final runs of the day saw improved times for Simon Baines, down to 124.94, Paul Bryan down to a 138.58, Philip Cowpland to 145.95, George to 155.13, and Howard to 162.22.



Howard Burton approaching Peel Corner

Once the best times had been put through Deep Thought (you really should read Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy you know...), the podium standings were;

Simon Baines 1st

Clive Glass 2nd

Rob Stones 3rd

We all retired to our respective accommodation, ready to fight another day.

Sunday 5th May – International Circuit.

“What difference a day makes, 24 little hours. Brought the sun and the flowers, Mmm where there used to be rain”

The cultured amongst you will instantly recognise the Dinah Washington hit from 1959, but I suspect fewer will know the song is based on a Spanish song entitled ‘Cuando vuelva a tu lado’ (When I Return to Your Side), first recorded by Orquesta Pedro Via in 1934. Anyway, basically Sunday was cracking the flags, and so Paul Clarke broke out the sun cream...

Practice was uneventful, with everyone behaving themselves and keeping the cars pointed in the right direction. At the end of second practice Simon Baines was once again setting the pace with a 102.02, a rejuvenated Paul Clarke on 105.04, and me on a 106.99. Wary of the algorithm machinations Simon broke out Deep Thought and, had they been timed runs, he would have scored 100, with Paul receiving 99.9, so it was all to play for in the timed runs after lunch...



Pit garage discussions after Deep Thought



Speedmoggers waiting in the pit lane.

The organisers managed to fit in three timed runs after the lunch break. Paul Bryan whittled his time down to a creditable 111.35, Philip Cowpland improved on each round to finish on 114.07, as did George Poundofruit to a 124.22.

After initially over-thinking the course, Howard Burton reduced his time on the final run to a



127.44, Rob Stones to a 107.30, me on 105.97, and Paul Clarke to 104.17, including an extreme brown trouser moment getting all four wheels off the track when flat out approaching Rocket, but somehow managing to hold everything together (well, apart from his bodily functions obvs...).

Paul Clarke – still smiling – maybe

Drive of the day though had to go to Simon Baines who set a magnificent 98.84 – his and the only Morgan sub-100 second lap of the International Circuit. Needless to say, his legs had gone to mush when he got back to the paddock and he needed a few moments before he could extricate himself from the car...



George Proudfoot

So when the dust settled, Simon rounded off a great weekend with two wins, Paul Clarke was second, and George and I were 3rd equal. There was just time for me to wind Jonno up one last time about his tin top shopping trolley, before fresh underwear was dished out (prizegiving) we all set off home.

It's good to be back!!

Clive Glass

Photos courtesy of Iain Leviston (Saturday) and David Burridge (Sunday)