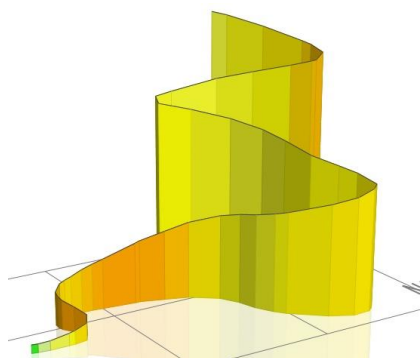


## The Tipster Speaks: Bouley Bay - 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019

Well, girls and guys, this Easter weekend sees the start of our Club's own hillclimb championship at the wonderful Jersey course. We should count our lucky stars that this event is even taking place as in the early days it seemed to be organised by our own politicians along the lines of Brexit! The entry forms were released late and then without any class to enter a Ferrari. Finally, all was well and entry was possible before the event whereas exit from Europe never met its date.

An awesome hill, one leaves the start by the sea and climbs rapidly to a finish some 71 metres higher after only 0.9 of a kilometre. In the Brexit version that is a climb of 233ft in only 0.56 of a mile and in either form it is an average of 8% incline – steep by any view. If it was a roller coaster ride it would be like the diagram – an accurate interpretation.



They leave the line at the Hotel and pass Spicer's shed through the left and right of the S-Bend, then (hoping that damn wet patch has dried) on to Platons left and then fast to Radio, a right. Full steam through the left at Quarry and over the line. Simple ain't it?

Well not quite. Past Champion Prior showed us that speed up to, and through, Radio wins the day but never forget this is a hill for the brave and whilst power will take the scratch win, the PEP win is open to those with a little less power but still the same skill, courage and a little luck.

Entries this year are fair to good, as will be the weather. It will be nice to watch the Hitchmans, from my vantage point picking new potatoes on the adjoining hillside, as Lorraine's lines are a pleasure to behold and Chris has really come to terms with putting power down out of the bends in an F355, as has Swifty in a similar tipo. Talking about lines brings me to both the Goodwins and especially the lovely 275 GTS Jon has entered. This competitive couple are old hands here and I suspect they will both enjoy the sport and be pushing hard. New man Mark Wyman has the steed (458) but is an unknown to me and so will put down my fork to observe while hoping Booth has gained from an impressive 2018.

So here we are again with tips and I'm trying to get my grey cells working while they are clogged with starch from the spuds. There may be two different winners in scratch and PEP but things are made hard for me by the quality of the drivers not mentioned so far. Spicer seems to wrench very good times out of his 328 provided he avoids the carpentry lessons this year. Snelson and Taylor (both 430-shod) are lean, mean driving machines and are so hard to separate I cannot decide – so will sit on the fence this time as to the scratch win. These two will also be on the PEP podium but Spicer may upset the order.

Now to business – butter and mint on them or just a little salt?

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