



After what seemed like an initial false start Spring has finally sprung. With Drive it Day, Spring Alfa Day and the Asparagus Run there is plenty to shake off the winter blues and get out and about to enjoy our Alfas. Cotswold Alfa Day tickets have also gone on sale and we are developing a number of ideas that were of interest from your event survey feedback, thanks to all who returned the survey. - MB

## *HSCC Super Touring @ Thruxton*

Easter saw the Thruxton Revival take place over the Saturday and Sunday at one of the UKs fastest and longest circuits. Of special interest was the HSCC Super Tourer race for genuine touring cars of from 1970 - 2001, competing in which was our own Steve Dymoke and Neil Smith in their ex Giovanardi & Tarquini 156 S2000 Spec cars.

The field was a little depleted but as the first race of the 2013 series not totally unexpected, with Steve himself only just making it after engine problems leading to a mercy dash back to the shop in Southampton before a late night for NJS to refit it before the weekend.

I wasn't there on Saturday but Mark G said it was a good few degrees colder than the Sunday and Neil had a big off during qual but no real damage other than an engine bay full of grass.

The Saturday race saw the Super Touring spec Honda and Nissan take 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> with Neil battling with the Ford Sierra Cosworths for a creditable 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Steve brought in the second 156 with an improving lap time as he got used to car and circuit. (Steve's first outing in the rebuilt car and only his 4<sup>th</sup> race in this particular 156) The Super touring cars were significantly quicker than the rest of the field, but Steve clocked 140mph chasing the ex Steve Soper BMW M3 verified from the onboard GPS readings.

Sunday was still cold but the Cotswold Supporters club were out in the Spring Sunshine and biting wind to add support to the NJS prepared Alfas. The starting grid was in the order of the finishers on Saturday with another Super touring spec Nissan Primera starting from the back after not making the Saturday race. Neil had his work cut out with this adding to the pack and after losing out on the main straight to a Sierra Cosworth which he promptly gained the place back in the twisty sections he then pulled away from the Ford to hold his 3<sup>rd</sup> place starting position. However the Nissan was carving its way through the field from the back in pursuit of the Honda & Nissan 1,2 that were also pulling away from the field. Inevitably the Nissan reeled in first Steve, then Neil. Steve was also catching the 5<sup>th</sup> place Cosworth but the 20 minute race was over all too quickly. Neil finishing 4<sup>th</sup> with Steve 6<sup>th</sup>.

Supertouring action- photos Jane Grimshaw



Pre race tactics!



Overall a great weekend for the guys and the first HSCC Super-tourer race of 2013. A bit of a gap to Brands Hatch on the 13th/14th July and then the big race at the Silverstone Classic 26/27/28<sup>th</sup> July.

If you do get the chance to make Brands Hatch or Silverstone I'd thoroughly recommend it, not only is it brilliant to see two Alfa touring cars on track sounding and looking the pick of the paddock but rumour has it John Cleland has bought one of his ex works cars and will be joining the fun at one of the future events. -MB





## Race Retro

A bitterly cold Sunday in Feb saw a visit with John Mills and Roger Lewis to Race Retro at Stoneleigh near Coventry.

The event certainly seemed to have suffered a little through these times of austerity with both the visitor numbers and displays reduced compared to previous years, although the 2010 event which featured a celebration of the 100 anniversary was always going to take some beating, (and not just because of the free lunch care of AROC!).

A couple of Alfas flew the flag including the Oxford University Motorsport Foundation prepared and campaigned Giulia Sprint GTV which was sporting a set of EB Spares Momo Vegas (ok so I'm just a little biased on that wheel front).

The star of the show had to be the recently completed 1962 Giulietta SZ Coda Tronca. This restoration was completed by Alfaholics. The car has an interesting history having competed at Le Mans in 1962. It looked resplendent under the lights at Stoneleigh with a rightly proud Jim Spackman keeping it dust and finger mark free during the weekend. An interesting chat with the guys on the Millers stand made me think somewhat about the introduction of E10 labelled fuel which could have further negative effects on Classics fuel lines and tanks.



Perhaps a ploy to sell more of their VSPE additive but I'm certainly going to stick to the main brand fuel and take a more keen interest in the FHBVC research and articles on the subject.

A meal in an Italian restaurant in Warwick certainly ended an interesting if not chilly day. - MB

### Identify the Alfa

A colleague at work sent me this photo of a family owned Alfa to see if anyone could identify the model. Although a well aged photo any thoughts or suggestions would be gratefully received. - MB

