

DOWN IN THE FOREST, SOMETHING STIRRED

The recent Wyedean Rally had a tantalising 1974 Lancia Stratos among the entries, but sadly it was one of a number of non-starters. Driven by Steve Perez and sponsored by one of his company's brands (Amigos tequila flavoured beer, actually!) this valuable (perhaps £250,000) and genuine car is often to be seen on the rally stages of Britain and elsewhere and here is a picture of the car in its current livery.



However, one other Italian car was entered and actually made it to the start and this was a rare, ex-Fiat UK, 2004 Stilo Abarth. I believe that it was one of a team of three used in the UK at that time and was built by in Italy by N Technology to Group N specification.



After the first stage it was 133rd overall and 20th in class but by the end of the event had climbed up to 80th overall and 13th in class and while only 86 cars finished the event another 66 retired, so the Stilo effectively came home ahead of 72 other competitors.



It is certainly nice to see a Fiat and a -if not on this occasion- Lancia still active in rallying as this is a branch of motorsport in which both makes have a long and distinguished history and long may this continue.

MJB

PS. The Stilo was brought to the event behind this Lancia-Martini liveried van with an EVO registration.

