

RACING BACKWARDS



Race Retro is billed as 'Europe's premiere winter show for historic motorsport' (are there any others?) and although it seems like only yesterday that the first one took place, the 2014 version was actually the tenth. Having never been, I was unexpectedly given the opportunity to check it out this year and thought that you might like to see some of the Italian interest to be found there.



In terms quantity Lancias were in the clear majority followed by Abarth, the latter having an interesting combined manufacturer/historical display that others would do well to copy. Aside from a few Ducatis, a Ferrari, an Osella and an OSCA that appeared to be it for one of the most prominent nations in motorsport history and it was a shame that in the centenary year of Maserati none were to be found, particularly as former 250F driver Stirling Moss was being interviewed on a number of occasions.



Even if a few Italian marques were lacking there was certainly some quality amongst those that were present, the variety of rallying Lancias being a good cross-section. Of particular interest were the Beta coupe and the Delta S4 which were taking part on the rally stage and they were joined there by a most unlikely contender, a Ferrari 308GTB. Being able to get

next to them and to see these and other truly historic rally cars in action was perhaps the most successful aspect of the whole event.



Within the exhibition halls there were further rallying Lancias, some very interesting Abarths -including an Abarth-powered Osella- and an OSCA, although perversely that was not one of their competition types. While there were a wide range of racing cars from many formulae on display there were quite a few cars which appeared to have no competition relevance and while the components, books and artworks also to be found often related to the subject in hand there were some stands that seemed to fall outside the scope of the event.



I was left with the feeling that the show is a brilliant concept that has still to attain its full potential, even after this length of time.

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