



The 50th birthday of Formula 3 was celebrated at the Nurburgring Oldtimer GP 2014 with a race covering F3 cars from 1964-1984. The race for the Formula 3 class was a novelty at this prestigious event, and the organizers seemed to be quite happy with the close racing and the variety of cars from two decades. They signalled that there is a good chance for a similar race next year. Although the mixture of 1000cc, 1600cc and 2000cc cars seemed a bit odd on first sight, it turned out to be a race with no major problems between the faster and the slower cars.

The 1-Litre screamers were the class with the most entries, although only 11 of the 13 cars entered were able to show up for the qualifying session on a sunny Friday morning. It was no surprise that Roland Fischer in his Tecno set the fastest time, 3 seconds ahead of the Swedish Brabham duo of Ferdinand Gustafson and Leif Bosson.

The first race of the event was held on Friday evening, by now it was raining and the track was quite slippery, which resulted in a total of three installation laps before the start, and lots of spins during the race. Fischer's lead lasted only for three laps, when a broken pushrod stopped his way to victory. Gustafson managed to get the best out of the difficult circumstances and won, 8 seconds clear of Jim Timms (Brabham BT21) and Mauro Poponcini (Cooper T76). Leif Bosson, who recorded the fastest lap time, came home 4th ahead of Robert Retzlaff (Brabham BT15), Clas Muller (Brabham BT28) and german period F3-driver Hermann Unold, who was struggling with his Tecno's engine. Fischer, Leif Joensson (Titan Mk3) and Johannes Kistler (BWA 324) were recorded as 'not classified', due to not having completed the required distance.

There was not much time to prepare the cars for race number 2, because it was held early on Saturday morning. Fortunately Fischer had been able to repair his car by simply replacing the broken pushrod, with no further damage visible. It was raining even more than the day before, so there was a least no doubt about which tyres should be used. This time Fischer's engine lasted, and he won the race with a 24 second gap ahead of the fast Poponcini and previous day's winner Gustafson. Behind them, Bosson and Retzlaff had a nice fight during the last 5 laps, but the experienced Swede made no mistakes and came home fourth. Muller, Joensson, Timms and Unold completed the result list.

A very special experience for the competitors was the fact that the trophies were handed over by former german lady racedriver Hannelore Werner, who competed in FVee, F3 and even F2 in the Sixties and Seventies. Her second place finish in the 1970 F2 race at the Nurburgring on a March 702 is still remembered by many enthusiasts.

Victory in race 1 and third place in race 2 put Ferdinand Gustafson on top of the scoring list after the AvD Oldtimer GP.

