



2023 Season Review

2023 FJHRA Silverline Championships Review

By Sarah

From Snetterton in April, through to the Silverstone Finals in October, the theme was the same; Inclusion. We were blessed yet again with new drivers, new members, and new friendships. Socialising was often just a case of pulling a few picnic benches together, for example outside the Checkers Bar at Oulton Park during the Gold Cup or sampling each other's home bakes around the tea table in Garage 11 at our Silverstone meetings. We simply enjoy our days/weekends together; fettling, chatting and racing.

I don't remember a time when we have had four Championship contenders going into the final event of the season, as we did this year, and that is surely a credit to what Dad, had as his focus 30 years ago when he established FJHRA. A class and points structure designed to give equal chance to cars from all periods of FJ history, to win the overall Championship, so that all makes of FJ are worthy of saving and restoring, and that all levels of racing have company on track.

Sure, there will always be lots of Lotus FJs out on track, and they'll always be desirable, but my goodness is there some wonderful variety in design too, celebrating the depth of history of the Formula that saw the greatest evolution of design in history! Just ask the drivers of the unique Deep Sanderson or Donford, one of the two Envoys at Snetterton, three Kiefts at Donington Park, or our four Alexis out during the season, or even check their grins after a good race!



There are not many people who didn't pitch in to help Nic Carlton-Smith take his 3rd Silverline Championship this season, but perhaps that makes it even more special and worth celebrating, because competition doesn't have to mean rivalry... By the season end, he'd borrowed two cars, an entire racing outfit, mechanics, tools, parts, and no doubt something else, but it wasn't a one way street. A local 14-year-old boy had shown an interest the previous season, and Nic invited him along on multiple occasions this season to learn, help, be a part of it, exactly the mentoring that is needed, and exactly what our Historic community requires, to keep it sustainable.

In our Front Engined Championship, it was self-preparer Alex Morton who took the honours in his beautiful Condor S II, in a season well represented by Elva 100s. A number of very desirable cars are now available for next season, such as the Faranda and PM Poggi, so we look forward to more Italian cars taking on the British marques in future, joining Peter Fenichel who won Class A this year in his Stanguellini.

However - remember we're racing drivers Sarah, as they remind me! Yes! When they're on track they are, and their competitive spirit certainly keeps the blood pumping fast in the hearts of the spectators, because the racing can be thrilling. Extra thrilling in fact, Silverstone Festival being the obvious highlight, the spectacle that provided an incredible start to the weekend's racing, and then somehow was even better on Sunday!

From an event point of view, it was the Autumn Classic at Castle Combe that really got the vote. A fabulous opportunity to showcase FJ, being selected for the prestigious lunch time grid walk, and a wonderful atmosphere throughout the day.

Add In photo here Castle Combe. Caption:
Photo Credit: Red Water Images.



Our 2024 dates are printed on the next pages, and on our website; www.formulajunior.com/events, and provide a mixture of regular favourites, events we do on rotation, and something new and adventurous, so we can enjoy what we all love doing most, racing and being together – and before we know it, it'll be time for our Platinum Jubilee World Tour 2026-2028...!