

Vintage fans flock to Flying Fifty

IT was a big ask, but people who went to Northam for the Flying 50 — on the same day the Oz Grand Prix was run — were unanimous in their praise for the event.

And despite the distance and the attraction of watching the Formula One stars on the TV, a lot of people did go to the Northam street event.

"Gate takings were double that of last year," Vintage Sports Car Club (VSCC) president Ed Farrar said at the club's meeting last week.

"And everybody seemed to have a great time."

The winner of the main event had not been determined when we went to

press. The important thing for spectators and competitors was it was a chance for cars of yesteryear to run in a re-enactment of what racing was about 50 years ago.

WA is the only State that still features the "round-the-houses" events that were popular in country towns and some main centres in the pre- and post-WWII era.

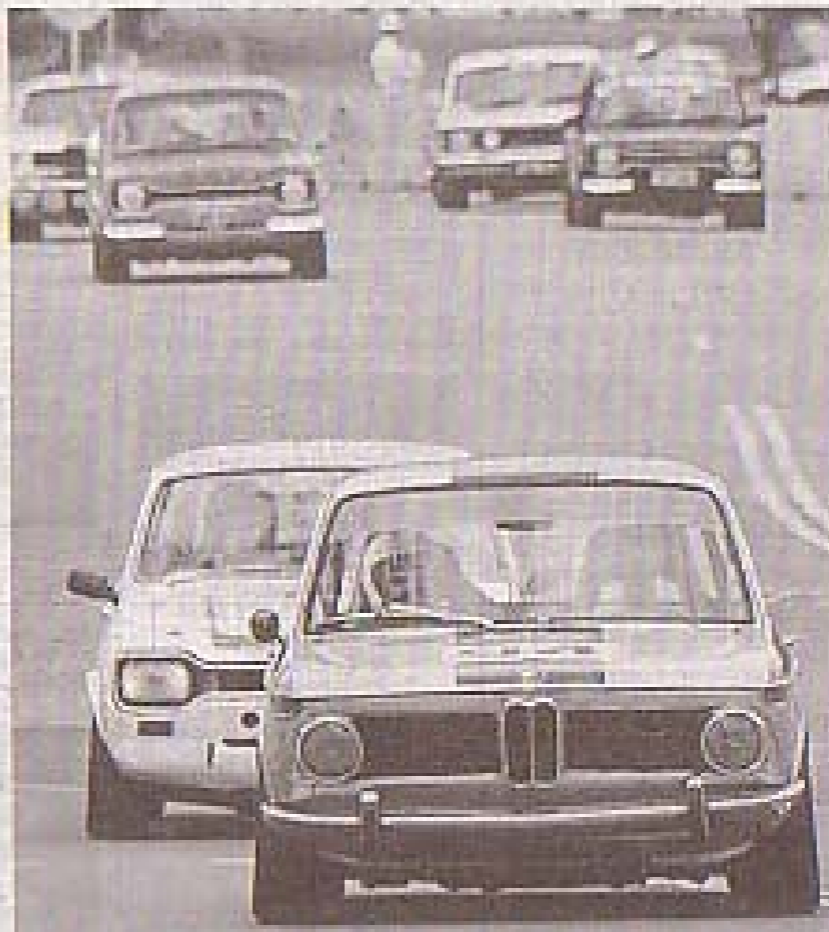
Cars were extremely varied: Freo Motor Museum CEO Graeme Cocks was there in his 1929 Chrysler Silverwings, Jack del Borrello took the famous White Mouse walkies, the Formula Vee contingent put on a speedy show and there was an international showdown

between Italian and British sports cars of the 1960s and '70s.

The tin-tops also had a few ding-dong dices with BMW 2002s and Escorts doing battle with Mustangs and chilli-hot Mazdas and Mini-Coopers and lots of the single-seat racing specials of yesteryear came out of storage for a spectacular squirt through the town's streets.

"The Flying 50 grows every year," Escort driver Justine Burns said.

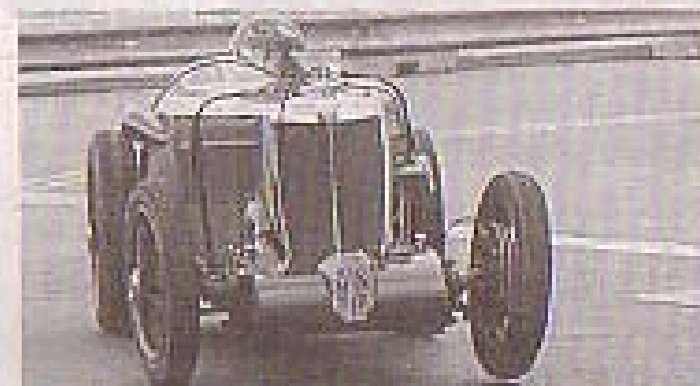
"We all look forward to it. It is also becoming one of Northam's main annual events and makes a considerable contribution to tourism in the area."



Garry Edwards (BMW) leads the pack at Northam.



Italy versus Britain. Pictures: Travis Barnes



Ed Farrar's 1933 MG in three-wheel mode.