

Max Force - TI'S at Taupo 10th & 11th of March 07

Another fine Autumn morning dawns for the TACCOC race meeting. After being a lonely TI participant at the previous Pukekohe meeting I am looking forward to some fellow competitors showing up. Arriving in pit paddock I see a good turn out of Alfa's. Tina is the only other TI driver to show up, with her 1700 Sprint. I'm guaranteed to have some racing action as we are evenly matched, and have one win each on this track from a previous meeting.

Practice gives Tina the quicker lap time by 0.13 of a second. In race 1 I manage to get a good start and overtake her before the first corner. I hold the lead for a few laps, but she manages to sneak past to win the race.

In race 2 ,Tina is on the grid behind me because she was given a DNF in race 1. This has happened before, when GTA cars lap you on the line. It can be difficult to judge if you have been lapped before the checked flag or after.

If it happens to me I think I will keep racing and do another lap. Race 2 is similar to race 1,the Taupo intermediate circuit is tight and twisty and not ideally suited to a TI cars standard suspension and tyre setup. Tina obviously has it better sorted than me, and "The Force" is certainly strong in that girl, especially after loosing grid positions.

Sunday was a non points race day, and the two of us had a great battle in the scratch race. I managed to overtake her at the start and she was on my bumper for 5 1/2 of the 6 laps, a lack of concentration, on my part, allowing her through for the win. A great duel with the wrong result, for me any way. I would like to thank Tina for the clean and competitive racing, may "The Force" stay with you.

Our next meeting is an Alfa only day on the Taupo small track. There is driver training in the morning followed by single car sprints. If you have thought about having a blast with your Alfa, around a track, think no longer.

Give it a go. Any of the committee would be happy to explain further, I am sure. E-mail details are under 'CONTACTS'

Max van Maanen. Car Number 274 - Alfa 33 TI Class.