



COLD COMFORT, ITALIAN STYLE

Alberto Aliverti/Yuri Merlo guide their Fiat 508C to overall victory. Below: Charles/Michael Monticelli Jag XK150

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There was some late drama on the Winter Marathon from 23-25 January, based in the ski resort of Madonna di Campiglio in north-eastern Italy. The 37th and longest edition yet took the 130 crews more than 330 miles, with 65 time trials and six regularities.

A mathematical error denied last year's winners, Edoardo Bellini and Roberto Tiberti (Fiat 508C), a fourth triumph and dropped them to sixth, despite them leading earlier in the event.

There were still two 508Cs on the podium, though: first-placed Alberto Aliverti and Yuri Merlo, and Fabio and Marco Salvinelli who finished third. It was Aliverti's third Winter Marathon win, with

Merlo guiding him to an advantage of more than 20 penalty points over the Lancia Aprilia of Lorenzo and Mario Turelli, who snatched the runner-up spot from the Salvinellis on the final section.

On Saturday, after the main event, time trials were held on the nearby frozen lake. In the Sparco Trophy for the Winter Marathon's first 32 finishers, Aliverti/Merlo conceded victory to the Turellis after the rally's top two crews went head-to-head in the final. Michele Vecchi and Gabriele Soldo (Lancia Appia C10S) were third.

Vying for the Zero Time Trophy were eight non-Italian teams: Americans Mark Gessler and Lawrence Webster (Lancia Fulvia Sport 1.3S Zagato) pipped the Porsche 924 turbo of Polykarpos Notaras and Petros Christopoulos from Greece in that final.

The Turellis' Lancia Aprilia took top honours on Saturday's Sparco Trophy time trial on a frozen lake



From top: Zero Time Trophy winners Gessler/Webster (Lancia Fulvia Sport); Porsche 924 of Notaras/Christopoulos