

SPORT



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Clockwise: Riboldi Fiat on the road to glory; interloping runner-up Bugatti; the Salvinellis drove the second father-son Fiat to the podium

Unbeatable Brescians rule rally

Local knowledge paid off on 10 April for the Franciacorta Historic as Alberto Riboldi and son Federico in their 1937 Fiat 508C topped a podium entirely made up of Brescia natives. A record 130 crews tackled the 75-mile, 46-test rally around Lombardy in northern Italy.

Having finished third in 2020, the Riboldis withstood day-long pressure from the 1926 Bugatti

Type 37 of Domenico Battagliola and Paolo Fredi, and the father-and-son crew of Fabio and Marco Salvinelli (1954 Fiat 1100/103).

Edoardo Bellini and Roberto Tiberti, last year's winners and the most successful crew in the rally's history, had to settle for seventh place, after problems with their 1937 Fiat 508C forced a last-minute switch to a '31 Fiat 514S.

Swiss brothers Ferruccio and Carlo Nesi in their 1928 Riley Brooklands were the highest-placed non-Italian crew in 37th position, one of just three foreign squads. Davide Valsecchi, 2012 GP2 champion and Formula One commentator, retired mere miles from the finish piloting a Lancia Fulvia Coupé alongside navigator Gabriele Francesco Ricco.