

future of the marque.

Jaw-dropping

Certain die-hards were a little miffed that the Alfa Romeo Owners Club chose to honour the Alfased, but it's high time that the original hot-hatch (well, in Ti form at any rate) received more recognition. Aside from anything, it set the class standards for years to come but as with most 70's designs corrosion took its toll; however it is becoming increasingly recognised as a true classic, with its own 40th anniversary looming up. AROC displayed 2- 4-door models as well as the much maligned Arna, a combination of

Nissan Cherry body and 'Sud boxer mechanicals. Also on the stand was an example of the Minari kit car, utilising 'Sud mechanicals.

As ever, traders were there with a variety of classics on offer, but truly jaw-dropping was the not terribly remarkable Ford Escort Twin Cam with a price tag of £65,000! Whilst we have become used to the fact that prices of rally-prepared Escort's have followed Lotus Cortina's through the roof, have standard cars really reached this level?

On that note, it was time to go out into the cold and return to the real world secure in the knowledge that the classic car world is at least

riding out the storm, but remember all those figures we quoted at the top of this report?

Well, there was one small but very important number at the NEC; with the Show opening on 11th November, Armistice Day, the whole show fell silent for two minutes at 11am whilst we respected the sacrifice of those without whom we would not be enjoying our hobby today.

Oh, and just one more statistic – almost one in three of those 47,000 visitors went home with a copy of CMM, some 14,000 or so having been distributed to encourage more to join you, gentle reader, as a follower of this esteemed publication!

● **Best Themed Stand went to the Panther Car Club who had an unusual take on the 'Running in the family' theme, posing as Mafia gangsters, with an example of each of the Panther 'family' on their stand, plus (left to right) Ray Bridges, Val Bridges (Chairman), Tony Ansell, Mavis Beddow & Terry Boughton all dressed to kill...**

