

SEBRING – FEBRUARY 2017



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Friday last saw yours truly heading to Sebring, where Toni Seiler was racing the “Works” T70 Mark 3b coupe for the first time in 2017. Toni has already racked up an impressive list of successes with this car, starting something like ten races and winning seven plus podiums in the other three.

Route 64 to Sebring from I75 is always a great drive; a two-lane road that is mostly straight but paradoxically can be dangerous. Many trucks, loaded usually with oranges from the neighboring groves, thunder down it and I’ve seen the aftermath of a couple of accidents where drivers of passenger cars overestimated their car’s acceleration when passing another vehicle. Doesn’t bear thinking of...



So I set off on a chilly morning in our 2006 Mercedes SL500, it being too cold to take the XK120(!) and arrived there at about 11 am as Toni was going out for a practice session. The car looked good and planted from where I was watching at turn 17 and Toni expressed himself satisfied, having posted a 2:13 lap and saying that if he had new slicks (he was running 4 year old treaded tires!), he thought a 2:10 was easily within reach. New tires were duly fitted for the races and, looked after by Mac's crew of Clint, Gary and Ritchie, ably assisted by Toni's own engineer, Peter Spurrie, Toni duly won all three races that he was entered in.

This Sebring race meeting was an extended test session for Toni and the Lola; they'll not be back racing in America until November, when Toni, accompanied by an as yet unnamed co-driver, will be racing in the Classic Daytona 24 Hours and the Classic Sebring 12 Hours. In the meantime, if you are in Europe, you might catch Toni competing with yet another T70 coupe, this a Mark III, in all the CER races at circuits such as Spa, Monza and the Nurburgring.



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