

Note 50



The 1954 Formula

Laurence Pomeroy (32) states that he attended the October 1951 FIA meeting which fixed the post-1953 formula (therefore giving over 2 years notice for design and development) and that a “slow-down” mood amongst the other attendees was against prolonging the 1.5L PC/4.5L NA rules scheduled to last until the end of 1953, as desired by Britain and Germany. The former delegates hoped that the V16 PC BRM would come good by that time and the latter that Mercedes-Benz would enter a new V12 PC car (468).

This mood then led the British to suggest 750 cc for PC engines. They hoped that “1/2” of the long-delayed 1.5L BRM could be ready for 1954. This was accepted and, as the 1 PC: 3 NA ratio had not quite brought equality in 1951, an extra 10% was proposed for NA, i.e. 1 PC : 3.3.NA. Hence, rounded-up from 2.475, 2.5L for NA.

The 2.5L Ferrari demonstration at Bari shortly before the meeting (Taruffi lapped at 91% of Fangio’s Alfa 159 speed on pole in practice) probably helped to settle the matter.

Of course it was not known at the meeting that, after Alfa Romeo announced their withdrawal at the end of 1951, Formula 1 1.5L PC/4.5L NA rules would be abandoned by classic O.race organisers for 1952 – 1953 in favour of 2L NA Formula 2,

To return to home page: [Home Page](#)