

# #SuperTourerReunion

by Irmmler Racing: the comeback of the Opel Vectra Supertouring in the sponsoring look of Stella Artois.

Splendid newcomer to the #SuperTourerReunion by Irmmler Racing: after more than two decades of downtime, the legendary Opel Vectra Supertouring, which led the 59-car field into the opening lap at the 1996 Spa-Francorchamps 24-hours-race, returns to the racing scene. But not only that: With Pierre-Alain Thibaut, at least one of the three original drivers at that time will reach into the steering wheel spokes. At the AvD-Oldtimer Grand Prix in August at the Nürburgring, fans of the two-liter supertouring car era will be offered this highlight. The racing driver, entrepreneur and Opel enthusiast Steffan Irmmler from Drebber in the district of Diepholz makes it possible once again. Carsten Krome reports.

A blown cylinder head gasket destroyed highest hopes, the victory once again fell on the Bigazzi BMW 320i, which has also been fully factory-supported. Jörg Müller/Alexander Burgstaller/Thierry Tassin finally prevailed against their team-mates Peter Kox/Steve Soper/Marc Duez. After a trip to the French Supertourisme championship, things got more quiet around the Snobeck-Vectra. After more than two decades of downtime, the Lower Saxony Opel enthusiast Steffan Irmmler (50), who is already possessing a collection of different Opel cars from the era of the two-liter super touring cars in racing, discovered and reactivated him. He will also reactivate the now 24-year-old Vectra in the design of the Belgian brewery. Entrepreneurs and racing drivers have created the #SuperTourerReunion, which will experience its season highlight at the AvD Oldtimer Grand Prix in the beginning of August 2020 at the Nürburgring. International world-class racing drivers and contemporary witnesses will take part – including Pierre-Alain Thibaut. The director of the Spa-Francorchamps racetrack from 2008 to 2015 is now active again in historic racing, including the allmighty Porsche 917.



**July 27, 1996:** Eric van de Poele creates a sensation at the Spa-Francorchamps 24-hour race in the Belgian Ardennes. Coming from third place on the grid, the local breaks into the phalanx of the two fastest BMW 320i in qualifying and leads the 59-car-field into the prestigious first lap. The appearance of the German Touring Car Champion back in the year of 1987 on a BMW M3 is extremely remarkable, because van de Poele has had the Belgian importer team commit to a factory-supported Opel for the second time. The Frenchman Dany Snobeck builds a new vehicle only for this one mission in 1996 and brings in his compatriot and long-time partner Alain Cudini as a driver. The list of secret favorites is completed by another Belgian, Pierre-Alain Thibaut, who, in addition to intensive local knowledge, also has some experience with the front-wheel driven four-door vehicle from Opel. With the predecessor of the Vectra Supertouring of the first series, he, Jean-Francois Hemroulle and Eric van de Poele finished seventh in qualifying at the Spa-Francorchamps 24 Hours in 1995. The trio of the three local experts finally fails in the long-distance classic with an engine damage. Even then, the world beer brand Stella Artois from Leuven in Flanders supported the Opel Vectra as a general sponsor.

This has also been the case twelve months later, when van de Poele / Cudini/Thibaut reached for the stars at the 24 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps. But after a brilliant start, the newly formed driver trio, despite the new car with no running hours, had no fortune.

At the #SuperTourerReunion at the Nürburgring, Pierre-Alain Thibaut will meet John Cleland, Volker Strycek, Mike Briggs and possibly Joachim Winkelhock. Steffan Irmmler is looking forward to the class reunion. „We are currently reassembling the newly-acquired Vectra after a review,“ he reports. „The livery at that time in the sponsor look of Stella Artois is being restored to the original, the body has already been repainted“. And he adds: „Everyone in our team is looking forward to the new challenge after our successful performance in the DUNLOP Saloon Car Cup 2019 in England. We have positioned ourselves well and not only bought up residual stocks of essential trades from the world market. We also have all the construction drawings and more important documents. Slowly, a performance center for Opel vehicles of this very special category is emerging at our location in Drebber“.

*Responsible for the content:*  
Carsten Krome  
Netzwerkeins



# Idea, alignment, race format

## #SuperTourerReunion by Irmmler Racing and event calendar for STW touring cars.

The #SuperTourerReunion by Irmmler Racing is an open association for international racing drivers, owners, collectors, investors, technicians and friends of a contemporary STW touring racecar from the era of the former super touring car regulations, which were established in the year of 1993 and continued to apply internationally beyond the turn of the millennium for normally aspirated machinery with a maximum displacement of two liters. The #SuperTourerReunion by Irmmler Racing is clearly committed to these (STW) regulations. All vehicles should basically comply with the technical regulations of the FIA that were in effect at the time.

The #SuperTourerReunion by Irmmler Racing is not a solitary racing series, but rather an independent module that contributes to other, already existing racing series to complement and upgrade them. The #SuperTourerReunion by Irmmler Racing brings renowned international professional racing drivers from the era of two-liter super touring racecars back together with their original, partly newly built, then used vehicles according to the FIA regulations in force at the time. As the currently exclusive presentation partner, Irmmler Racing brings in the necessary network performance as well as all communication measures that are required to set up and maintain an adequate, multilingual press and public relations workforce.

As a regulation-correct displacement class, it is generally intended to anchor the #SuperTourerReunion by Irmmler Racing from event to event within existing, selected racing formats. As a result, the #SuperTourerReunion by Irmmler Racing sees itself as a complementary upgrade with popular original drivers and their vehicles at that time. Exceptions to the defined technical status of the FIA regulations applicable at the time are generally not desired. Since the #SuperTourerReunion by Irmmler Racing is on the one hand a sporty and stringent competition with clear interpretation of the regulations and on the other hand an international network meeting, a common appearance of all participants in the #SuperTourerReunion by Irmmler Racing in the paddock is a key essential.

**Conclusion:** The #SuperTourerReunion by Irmmler Racing was created to put racing, networking and communication in the foreground in relation to specific original #SuperTourer-style vehicles of an unchanged popular era and its protagonists. Commercial and especially sports-political interests are completely out of the question. The basic principle is: race because it's just fun.

*Responsible for the content:  
Carsten Krome Netzwerkeins*



## #SuperTourerReunion by Irmmler Racing: 2020 event calendar

May 7 – 10, 2020: Sachsenring Classic (touring car legends)  
June 11 – 14, 2020: Anderstorp / S (DTM, (Touring Car Classics)  
July 1 – 5, 2020: Knockhill / GB (Dunlop Saloon Car Cup)  
August 5 – 9, 2020: Nürburgring / D (AvD-Oldtimer-Grand-Prix)  
August 27 – 31, 2020: Oulton Park / GB (Dunlop Saloon Car Cup)  
October 16 – 18, 2020: Nürburgring Westfalentrophy (touring car legends)

As of Monday, December 9, 2019

**IRMLER**

IRMLER GMBH • Hauptstrasse 74 • D-49457 Drebber  
Tel. +49 5445 98699 0 • Tel. Zentrale +49 5445 98699-0  
Fax Allgemein +49 5445 98699-28 • [sirmmler@irmmler-tools.com](mailto:sirmmler@irmmler-tools.com)