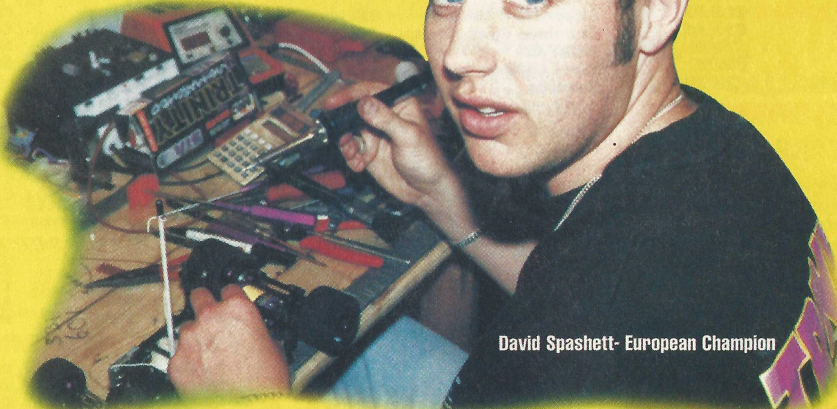


A final drivers

TRACK talk

next stop the World for Dave

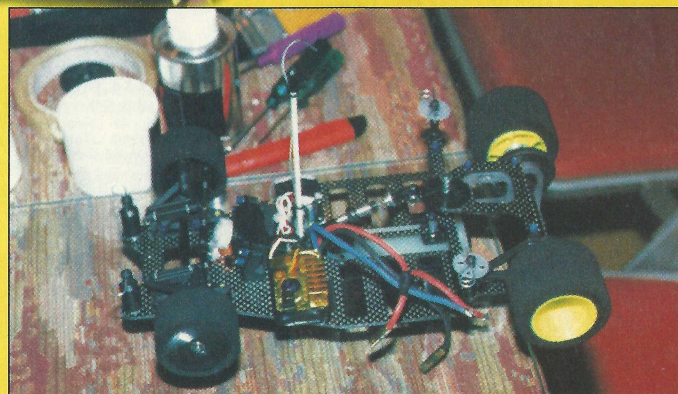
THE 1:12TH EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS



David Spashett- European Champion



Chris Ashton - A Final 9th



Mikael Fransson's Associated RC12LC - A Final 5th

The top 1/12th drivers in Europe descended on the Hinckley Leisure Centre for the 1/12th European Championships. There were a disappointing number of entries for this meeting, with only 67 drivers. The British team was the largest with 36 drivers. The other countries at this meeting were Germany, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Denmark, France and the Czech Republic. The same carpet and style of track markings that are used at some national meetings

were used to design a very impressive looking track.

Qualifying

After the open and controlled practice had been run in the morning it was finally down to the 'real' racing. The very first race of qualifying on the 2nd day, round 3, saw the main controversy of the meeting. As most of you probably know, you marshal the race immediately after your race, but if you are in the top heat you have to marshal the first race. Erik Jonk did not realise the first heat was starting



Jonas Andersson - Junior European Champion

so he went out late to marshal. The result of this was the loss of Erik's fastest time of the day. Most drivers would find it difficult to put in one fast time to make the A final, but Erik would now have to do two.

A Final Leg One

A clean start saw David Spashett get into the lead followed by Andy Griffiths, Markus Mober and Oscar Jansen. David and Andy started to put in some of the fastest laps of the meeting to pull away from the rest of the field. This one ended in a win for David Spashett by only 1/100th of a second from Markus Mober, Oscar Jansen finished in 3rd place with Andy Griffiths in 4th place after being so close to the win. Mikael Fransson finished half a second behind Andy in 5th place.

A Final Leg Two

Another clean start to the final saw David Spashett in 1st followed by Andy Griffiths, Markus Mober and Mikael Fransson. These 4 drivers were all very close and after a minute they were starting to pull away from the rest of the field. By 5 minutes Andy, Markus and David had pulled away from Mikael and it looked as though there was going to be another close finish. The order remained the same until the start of the last lap when a back marker blocked Andy as he tried to lap him. This bad driving let David through into the lead. He only had the rest of the lap left to hold on to the lead. He managed to do this to become the 1998 European Champion by winning the first two legs.

A Final Leg Three

With David already European Champion the main battle was going to be for 2nd place overall between Markus Mober and Andy

where the brits finished

David Spashett	1st
Andy Griffiths	3rd
Phil Davies	8th
Chris Ashton	9th
Darren Houghton	10th
Andrew Moore	13th
Craig Drescher	16th
Nigel Hale	21st
Rob Roy	24th
Paul Ash	25th
Keith Robertson	27th
Robin Hammett	28th
Jamie McDonagh	29th
Marcus Epstein	30th
Andy Sawyer	31st
Chris Clarke	32nd
Roger Manwaring	34th
Neil Mead	35th
Mick Farrell	37th
Ian Plimmer	40th
Sam Martin	43rd
Jody Sherratt	44th
Alan Leighton	45th
Ben Manwaring	47th
Kevin Creaser	49th
Clive Coomes	50th
Russ Giles	51st
Darren Simpson	52nd
David Holmes	53rd
Steven Rowley	54th
Chris McDonagh	56th
Nick Upton	57th
John Davies	60th
Matt Hickingbotham	61st
Syd Evans	62nd
Derek Jones	66th

Griffiths. It was Andy who took the win with David in 2nd with Marcus Mober moving up to 3rd position on the last lap to take 2nd place overall. Andy finished 3rd overall despite this win. **NRCI**

I'd like to say a big thank you to all the organisers of this meeting for their hard work in putting on this very good European Championship. Congratulations to David Spashett on once again becoming European Champion and to the other 4 British drivers who made the A Final. Hopefully the British drivers will go just as well at the forthcoming World Championships.

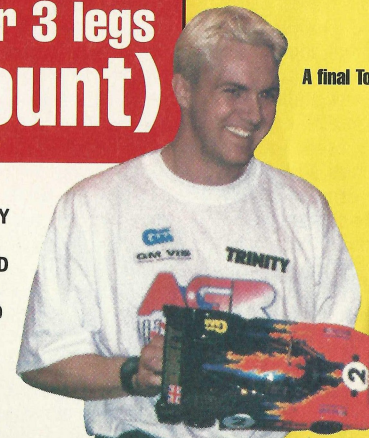
European Championships Top 10 Qualifiers:

1. David Spashett	GB	41-490.88
2. Andy Griffiths	GB	40-483.13
3. Markus Mober	GERMANY	40-483.57
4. Oscar Jansen	HOLLAND	40485.21
5. Mikael Fransson	SWEDEN	40-487.68
6. Reto Konig	SWISS	40-488.57
7. Sakke Ahoniemi	FINLAND	40-490.31
8. Phil Davies	GB	40-490.42
9. Chris Ashton	GB	40-491.40
10. Darren Houghton	GB	40-491.87

As usual everybody had a practice final to sort out any interference problems. Then they would have 3 finals with their best 2 finishes counting.

Combined Results after 3 legs (Best 2 to count)

1. David Spashett	GB
2. Markus Mober	GERMANY
3. Andy Griffiths	GB
4. Oscar Jansen	HOLLAND
5. Mikael Fransson	SWEDEN
6. Sakke Ahoniemi	FINLAND
7. Reto Konig	SWISS
8. Phil Davies	GB
9. Chris Ashton	GB
10. Darren Houghton	GB



A final Top 3 drivers

