

CHRIS FIFE-SCHAW

# TAMIYA EURO-CUP

ROUND 3 – TIBSHELF  
FORMULA 1 AND M-CHASSIS



One of the youngest drivers, Tim Fife-Schaw with his Ferrari.

## formula 1 tyre protests spoil sunny day's racing

**I**n my last report I predicted that we would have tyre related problems at Tibshelf and while the problems in the end did not involve illegal additive use, we did have the unfortunate sight of a protest lodged against the eventual winner of the meeting. What should have been Rob Chaldecott's day of glory ended up being spoiled by claims that he was using illegal tyres. In the end the



Concours line up.

race director let the results stand, as in all these situations you can't please all of the people all of the time.

I will relate the story as I saw it and obviously these are my views and not those of RRC. Essentially the problem is tied up with the Tibshelf Club's rule banning the use of additives on

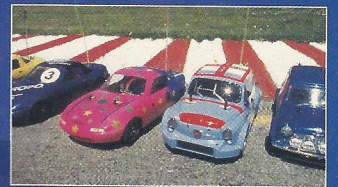


Tibshelf from the rostrum.

their track. As this is the only venue we visit that doesn't allow additives it always poses a tyre

choice problem and there is never really enough time to do serious tyre testing. When the weather is hot, as it was on race day, Tamiya's very expensive 'Integrated' slicks have worked well in the past but a lot of people, myself included, feel unwilling to spend £35 on a set of tyres that will be used once a year and don't last very long to boot.

Peter and Rob Chaldecott, however had spent the previous two weeks testing at Tibshelf and had worked out that a combination of the new front wishbones and Medium fronts/Soft rears worked much better than the Integrated slicks and they were fly-



The weird and wonderful of the M-chassis class.



F1's on Tibshelf's turn one.



A smart Argos Mini.

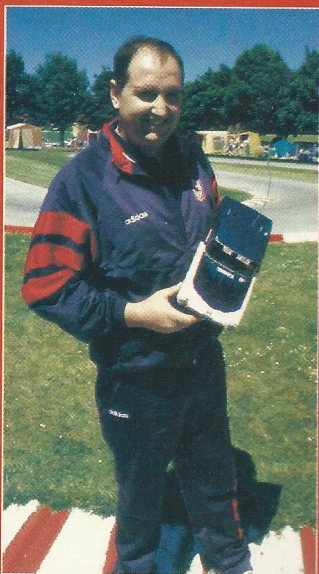


David Pitcher's Damon Hill Arrows.

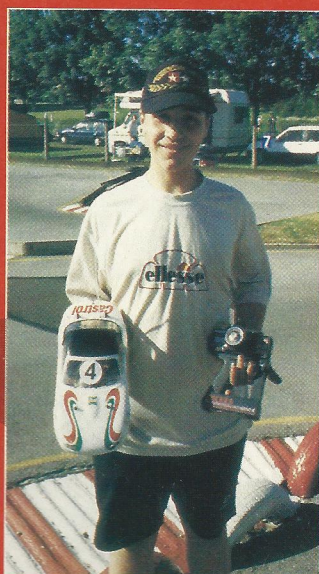




F1 concurs winner Graham Hill.



M-chassis concurs winner Graham Atkinson.



Ben Elliott, 'A' final winner again.



Rob Chaldecott, F1 'A' Final Winner

ing in both practice and on race day. Rob held TQ until round 4 when Pete Stevens took it by copying Rob's set up exactly.

The problem and the eventual protest surrounded the type of Soft rear tyre being used. Many of the series' established stars had tried the Medium front/Soft rear combination (though few chose to try the new front end at the same time) and found it very difficult to drive and were slower than Integrated slicks. This led people to question the origins of Rob's Soft rear tyres which, like the old 'Soft' rears fitted the full width of the rims (the 'new' stock doesn't). To compound the problem the Softs available trackside were of the 'new' variety only thus preventing people getting hold of the wider Soft variety.

Rob's eventual win in the 'A' final was accompanied by lots of mutterings, especially as Pete Stevens' storming drive back up to second after a dreadful start, was also achieved using Rob's set up. Rob, quite reasonably argued that he was using Tamiya products and had invested a lot of time testing at what was his local track after all and he had earned his win. Others might also reasonably argue that all possible tyre combinations ought to be available trackside and that someone should be on hand to make clear rulings on areas of ambiguity.

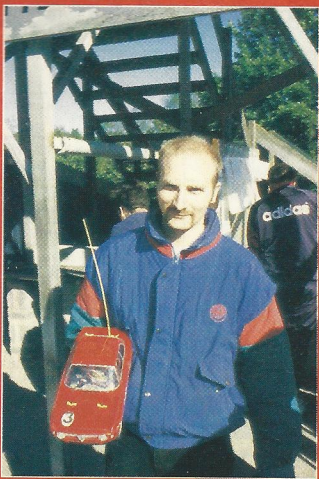
My feeling is that this problem could be have been avoided by having an impartial Tamiya representative present since all those available to offer opinions on the matter had some interest in the outcome. Not a very satisfactory state of affairs for all involved and something which spoiled an otherwise excellent and friendly meeting.

Back to the racing and Jon Winter kept his championship challenge alive with a third place and Mark Williams is also bringing himself into contention with yet another consistent finish in fourth place.

# m-chassis new (?) blood upsets the status quo

Technically the main interest surrounded tyres though strangest of all set ups was that of Richard Johnson who qualified in the 'A' final using Soft fronts and HPR Medium rears - a combination which on paper looks like it ought to be undriveable!

Fortunately, for all concerned things in the M-chassis class were much less controversial and spiced up somewhat by RRC's own Mark Boothman making his annual, Tibshelf only, appearance this time



A man who'll race anything to get his picture in the mag, Mark Boothman.



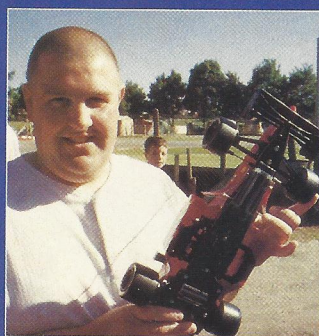
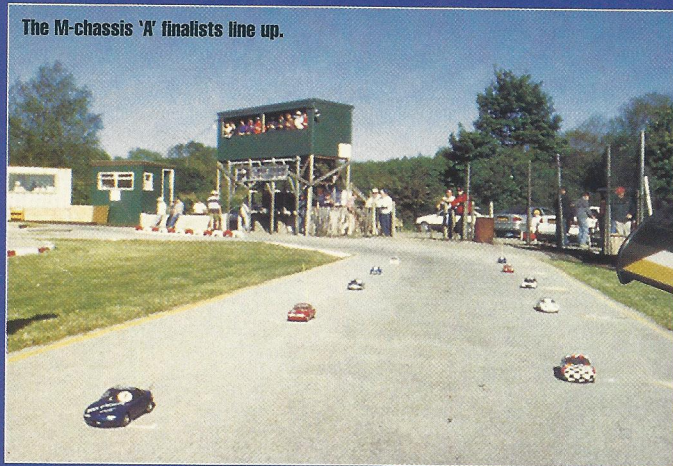
The F1 'A' finalists.



Pete Steven's Sauber on the F1 'A' final pole.



The M-chassis 'A' finalists line up.



Simon Smith shows how the barge boards are mounted on the new Ferrari.

driving a straight out of the box Alfa Sprint (he'll do anything to get his photo in the magazine). Luke Burley had also acquired his own M-chassis car since winning at Castle Coombe and is now intent on challenging Ben Elliot for the championship.

The first round saw Ben Elliot assume his normal TQ position on a 13:304.02 but this was beaten in round 2 by touring car star Andrew Cooper who kept it for the rest of the day with a 13:300.35. Mark Boothman, new to the class, quickly got himself sorted out and eventually qualified third (13:301.21)

The not-often-seen new Ferrari body shell.



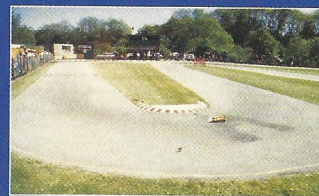
just behind Luke who missed TQ by the narrowest of margins (13:300.38). The 'A' final saw Andrew get eaten up in the first corner free-for-all, while Ben leapt to the front never to be headed. Mark and Luke fought it out for second with Mark eventually taking the place by 5 seconds.

Technically there was little of note to report for the M-chassis except that yet again an unfashionable car made it to the 'A'. An unsponsored Robert Hill using a Fiat Abarth running in FWD format (the only person so doing) made it to an eventual 7th place, again showing that you don't need mega

bucks or heavy sponsorship to do well in this class.

Concours winners were Graham Hill in F1 and Graham Atkinson in M-Chassis who both received £15 worth of Eurobonds. Graham Atkinson's win with his Honda S800 rather upset his plans as he had intended not to use the body but had to once he had won the prize!

RACI



Even Glyn Beal's 1/8th scale Serpent looks small on the giant Tibshelf track.

Driver	Sponsor	Radio	Speedo	Servo	Cells	Body	Front Tyres	Rear Tyres	Gearing	Qualify	Final Pos.	Other Info.
Rob Chaldecott	Infinity	FF3	MRT VFX	KO 1012	Infinity 1400	Sauber	Med	Soft	27/93	2	1	New front end
Pete Stevens	PAP, Frewer, LRP, KO	KO Vantage	LRP IPS	KO 1004 1700	Glyns	Sauber	Med	Soft	22/63	1	2	New front end
Jon Winter	Tanaplan, KO, MRT, Mirage Kits n Bits Chichester	KO Vantage	MRT VFX	KO 1012 V-Max	Orion	Sauber	Int	Int	27/93	4	3	
Ian Andrew	MRT, KO, Spec, PAP PBI	KO Vantaga	MRT VFX	KO 1001	GM, PAP	Tyrrell	Int	Int	27/93	5	4	Rear ride height adjust.
Mark Williams	DeVillbiss Racing Westbourne Models	JR 756	M.troniks 750 HF	Fut 148	Infinity	Sauber	Int	Int	27/93	6	5	
Richard Johnson	Mick Ward Models	Fut 2LGX	LRP ICS	Acoms AS11	Trinity	Williams	Soft	HPR Med	21/63	9	6	
David Pitcher	KO, Dad	KO Vantage	KO CX-7	KO Fet	Trinity GM	Williams	Int	Int	27/93	3	7	
Andy Luffman	DeVillbiss Westbourne Models	Airtronics 3P		Fut 148	1700	Sauber	Int	Int	27/93	8	8	
Graham Hill	MRT, KO, Infinity	FF3	MRT VFX	KO 1012	Infinity 1700	Sauber	Int	Int	27/93	10	9	
Paul Woodhams	DeVillbiss	JR Apex	Tekin 411G	KO 1002	1700	Sauber	Int	Int	27/93	7	10	

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Ben Elliot	S. Beds District Council Midland Bank, Evans Forshaw, Grundfos Pumps	KO EX1			Orion	MX5	M Grip	S Grip	20T	4	1	
Mark Boothman	Mick Ward Models	JR756			Infinity	Alfa	Kit	Kit	20T	3	2	
Luke Burley	Tanaplan, KO, Apex, Orion Mirage, MRT, UH Products	KO Esprit 2			Orion	MX5	M Grip	S Grip	20T	2	3	Blue Springs F Yellow R
Andrew Cooper	Sawyers Models, KO	KO Esprit 2			Orion	MX5	M Grip	S Grip	20T	1	4	Red springs F Yellow R
Paul Douglas	Sawyers, KO, Demon	Futaba			Pete's 2000	MX5	M Grip	S Grip	20T	5	5	
Graham Atkinson	Sawyers, KO, Demon	KO EX5			Pete's	MX5 Honda	M Grip	S Grip	20T	6	6	
Robert Hill	None	Sanwa			Trinity	Fiat	Kit	Kit	20T	9	7	FWD
Dave Elliot	Mum	KO EX10			Orion	Alpine	S Grip	S Grip	20T	7	8	
James Hebditch	None	Attack R			1700	Alfa	S Grip	S Grip	20T	8	9	Front roll bar Yellow springs R
Martin Thorpe	None	JR Apex			Parma	MX5	Kit	Kit	20T	10	10	F&R roll bars Yel. sp'gs F&R

TIBSHELF FORMULA 1 TIBSHELF M-CHASSIS