

Kyosho had two all new cars for the World Champs. In 2WD to defend their world title they had an all new Ultima which featured neat new suspension and a new gearbox - the car looked great but lacked track test time - the championships being almost the first run for

In 4WD the Laser was being used, again the car looked in good shape but lack of test time meant a very busy Kyosho team did most of their testing during the open practice days prior to the championships. Katsundri Kondo and Joel

Johnson were the team's top drivers along with a string of Japanese drivers and Britain's Pete Stevens.

Associated and Yokomo teamed up for a joint effort at taking the two titles. Associated ran five new development RC10's which were totally new in design - the cars featured a dual plate chassis layout and extremely long suspension arms. Also long stroke absorbers were fitted to the front as well as the

rear of the car.
One major feature on the
Associated cars was the fitting

the surface was a super slippery hard clay which in the dry weather became a dusty bowl on which there was only one line



Below: Craig Drescher complete with his Rang and RC10! Below right: the UK team in matching shirts - very smart. Below left: Joel Johnson's 'A' final placed Ultima. Centre: one of the Concours entrants 'Genuine Oz Muscle.' Bottom right: Keil's RC10 complete with Yoko tyres and Reedy













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they were approximately 2mm larger than the Schumacher tyre, making them illegal in Europe or in the States.

of a new wheel/tyre combination manufactured by Yokomo. The tyres looked conventional, but at closer inspection the size of the tyre came into play - they were approximately 2mm larger than the Schumacher tyre, making them illegal in Europe or in the States, but legal for World
Championship events (once
every two years). IFMAR called
a meeting to clarify the rules and it was deemed that the tyres were totally 'legal' although the general feeling was that the tyres use was not in the general goodwill of the meeting as they were only available to Associated and Yokomo drivers. This was a decision that was to have big implications later on.

The Yokomo side of the partnership had modified 'Dogfighters' as their 4WD contender. The cars were beautifully manufactured and featured very few kit parts - of course the cars used the new tyres and with drivers the like

of Masami Hirosaka, Cliff Lett and Jay Halsey, Associated/Yokomo looked to be probably the strongest contenders in the World title

Team Losi's 'JR×2' was always going to be in the hunt for 2WD honours especially with talented drivers like Gil Losi Jnr., Mike Dunn and Ron Rossetti campaigning the all American car. The cars were using standard parallelogram suspension rather that the semi trailing arm set-up seen in the

The rest of the World's manufacturers were represented in slightly less high numbers. Race Prep were running the AYK 4WD car which looked good in practice - Mike Dunn putting in lap times equal to the top Yokomo runners. Eustace Moore ran his own MIP 4WD RC10 as well as a standard RC10 in 2WD. The car looked to handle the dusty track well and Eustance as usual was confident of mixing it with the best.

PB Racing had one 'Maxima' running at the champs but unfortunately the new 'ACE' wasn't around long enough for pre-race testing and was not

Tamiya were represented by one French driver who had the new 'Egress' as well as an all new competition 2WD called the 'Astute.' Both cars ran well but the high class of field enabled the French driver to get only so far up the qualifying list.

British hopes

C. Drescher

J. Booth

P. Davies

K. Moore

P. Stevens

T. Walden

S. West

P. Smith

S. Brace

A Carter

P. Winton

N. Stringfellow

M. Langridge

R. Cull

Normally the British team is chosen from the BRCA championship table - but with the expense of a trip to Australia many of the allocated drivers had to withdraw leaving the way open for those who could afford to go to compete at World Championship level. The team consisted of 16

As can be seen, with the exception of four drivers, the entire British team drove Schumacher cars - thanks to a very generous Cecil Schumacher. At this point all the drivers have asked me to thank their relevant sponsors and or families for enabling them to go - but special thanks go to the George Land and Richard and Jackie Delves who made sure lots of the team's equipment arrived safely in Sydney. Also Radio Active and a handful regular customer/racers raised money in various ways to send Andy Carter - so from Andy and rest of the team,

thank you all!



the world's best drivers.

attendance driving for

Cliff Lett, Jay Halsey and

Masami Hirosaka, reigning 4WD World

Champion was in

Reedy Associated/

Yokomo along with

Butch Kloeber. Jay



and coming names such as Mike Dunn (USA), Jurgen were in for one hell of a meeting. Halsey had previously raced in

2WD World Championship

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The Championships were run on a simple system. One day of timed heated practice - this ruled out any frequency problems and enabled the drivers to find out who was quickest in the heat. In this

practice Masami Hirosaka laid down the law with times which put him easily fastest. In fact the new RC10's were all well up - bad news for the Topcat, JRX2 and Ultima drivers.

With qualifying underway it was immediately evident that the new Associated cars and



both IFMAR world finals

could he be the only man to

Joel Johnson, Pete Stevens

and Katsundri Kondo were

obvious finalists having National and World titles

between them.

make all three? Rick Hohwart,

Topcat Procat Ultima Laser Topcat Procat Topcat Procat Topcat Procat Topcat Procat Topcat Procat

BC10 Procat Topcat Procat

The drivers As usual the World Championships attracted all

RADIO CONTROL MODEL CARS

Dark horses of the meeting

were obviously going to be up

Hurricane Hirosaka!

Centre left: Andy Carter's Radio Active Topcat. Below: opening ceremony included the Scots

Guards! Bottom: Revtech RC10 featured some interesting mods. Far right: all the drivers and cars come together for a group shot. Bottom left: Masami Hirosaka shows off his

A Finals

Before the start of the first of the three A finals speculation was already rife as to whether anyone could tame the domination so far shown by young Masami, Mike Dunn was obviously the man with the best chance sitting in second spot on the grid. Rumours had been circulating all day that maybe Associated would like to see an American driver win – obviously with Mike Reedy in charge of the horsepower only a slight speed advantage would take either Jay Halsey or Cliff Lett to the title. As always the first corner was to play a major role in how the final would be

decided.
Final one started with an excellent getaway for Masami Hirosaka - he led easily on the first lap from a flying Jay Halsey (third on the grid), Mike Dunn was tucked in in third with Britain's Craig Drescher making up places in fourth. Despite various manoeuvres from Jay, he could not get past the inch perfect Hirosaka and when the final ended it was Masami first, two seconds in front of Halsey. Third was
Dunn, fourth Drescher, fifth
Lett and sixth Jamie Booth
extracting every bit of available
grip from his Topcat.

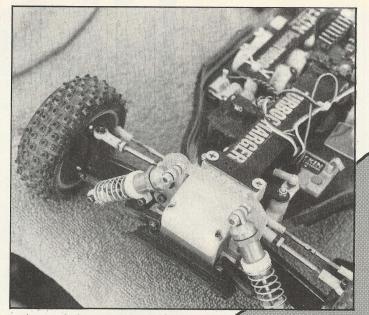
It was much the same in the second round with Masami disappearing into the dust. This time though it was left to Cliff Lett to take up the chase with Rick Vehlow coming through into third. Again Mike Dunn didn't take advantage of his second place on the grid and slipped to fourth, fifth was Drescher handling the pressure of his first final very well with sixth spot going again to

Before the start of the third and final round the racing mathematicians worked out that it would take a stunningly fast run from either Halsey or Lett to take the title from Masami, and as the buzzer set them off Masami was spun into the first turn. This left an open circuit for both Halsey and Lett to take up the challenge and go for a super fast time. By the halfway point Masami had clambered his way up to second behind Halsey.

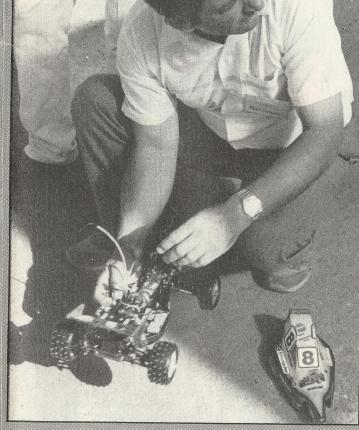
Towards the end of the race Halsey made a mistake which allowed Hirosaka through this was thought to be the final over, but with just seconds to go Masami made a small error allowing Halsey to drive over the top of his car and into the lead! Try as he might Masami could not re-catch Halsey and the final round fell to the

Once all the results had been published it was no surprise to see that Masami Hirosaka had added '2WD World Champion' to his long list of model car achievements. Jay Halsey had come in second and Cliff Lett third - a clean sweep for the new development RC10's.

Mike Dunn finished well up





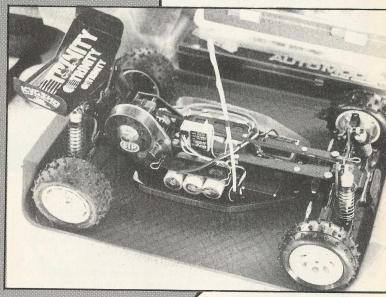


The track that greeted the drivers for the start of the 4WD Championships was obviously slightly secondhand

The rest of the top ten included Jamie Booth (Procat), Jay Halsey (Yokomo), Phil Davies (Procat), Jack Johnson (Yokomo), and in tenth Jurgen Lautenbach (Procat). No real surprises followed in round four and five, but again with a final round of qualifying to be held the next morning on a freshly laid track hopes were high from all the drivers that they could all go faster.

With the end of qualifying the list was published and it was to be Katsundri Kondo who was 'Mr. Unlucky' in 4WD finishing 11th fastest by a mere four seconds of a second! At the top of the table, surprise, surprise was Masami Hirosaka by 0.8 seconds over Cliff Lett. Third fell to Rick Hohwart with the Kyosho and fourth to Butch Kloeber. Jay Halsey completed four in the top five for Yokomo in fifth spot after some early

problems.
Sixth, seventh and eighth places were occupied by the Procats of Jurgen Lautenbach, Phil Davies and Rory Cull showing that even without the dreaded 'Yokomo' tyres the cats could mix it with the best.



in fourth with the JRX2 stopping almost domination. In fifth was Rick Vehlow and top Brit ended up Jamie Booth with the Schumacher Topcat. Seventh was the reward for Craig Drescher's efforts an excellent first Worlds result. Jack and Joel Johnson were in eighth and ninth with the RC10 and Ultima and in tenth spot was Ron Rossetti again with a JRX2.

4WD Championships

The track that greeted the drivers for the start of the 4WD Championships was obviously slightly secondhand - having had the 2WD's pounding away for the last three days. The main challengers were obviously going to be the Yokomo and CAT drivers but with the odd PB, Tamiya and

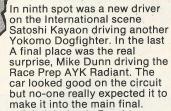
AYK being run we hoped for a

After the first three rounds the 19 year old Masami Hirosaka from Japan again headed the tables - of course he had the special Yokomo tyres and an excellently handling car - but in the end

pure skill was what put him at the top and that's exactly where he was. In second spot Cliff Lett fourth and the Reece Birtles from Australia

was Butch Kloeber - only in America are people called Butch! Rick Hohwart was third, surprise of early qualifications

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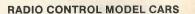


make it into the main final.

Britain's Jamie Booth was
less than pleased to be down in
16th spot – as Jamie was really
one of the hot favourites. Craig Drescher was also down in 22nd - brilliant really but after the excitement of the 2WD final a little disappointing.

Finals Finals!

Again both Mick Langridge and Chris House featured in the L final along this time with an extremely ill Richard Isherwood – Richard had a miserable championship ending up too sick with the flu to even race in his final. Mick and Chris finished their World









the Yokomo tyres were going to be numerically dominant. Some brave drives by JRX2 drivers saw the American car up with the best but the RC10's looked easily the most comfortable on what some drivers described as the most slippery track that they had ever come up against.

After half qualifying (three rounds) it was Masami Hirosaka all the way who led the title hunt by a massive five seconds. Craig Drescher kept the British hopes high with an excellent fourth place driving a standard RC10 with Yokomo tyres and a new development gearbox. Jamie Booth was easily the highest placed Topcat driver in eleventh. The rest of the top ten consisted of RC10's and JRX2's. Although at this stage with RC10's in all the top places it was looking like Associated had found the winning combination.

Obviously with almost all the qualifying taking place (five rounds) on one day the track was gradually deteriorating. This meant that the circuit was virtually re-laid overnight, therefore giving another excellent chance to qualify well on the one and only last qualifying round on finals day. In this final round almost

In this final round almost everybody improved their time but more importantly some top drivers qualified into the A final.

Final qualifying

At the end of qualifying it was no surprise to see Masami Hirosaka in pole position with a clear four second gap. Masami drove brilliantly in all his heats displaying fantastic skills on what was a very slippery track.

What must rate as one of the biggest surprises though was Mike Dunn's final qualifying run placing him in second spot. Mike drove the race of his life on a newly prepared circuit to knotch up his only 16 lapper of qualifying – talk about leaving it to the last minute!

In third, fourth and fifth places respectively were the development RC10's of Jay Halsey, Cliff Lett and Rich Vehlow, all the cars looking to handle well on the circuit – but without the sharpness of Masami's thumbs.

Masami's thumbs.
In a brilliant sixth appearing in his first World Champs was Great Britain's Craig Drescher. Craig and his Dad/mechanic Mike were using a standard RC10 fitted with the Yokomo tyres and a new high tech gearbox. Craig was in Masami's heat which obviously helped,

but Craig drove solidly throughout qualifying to obtain his excellent A final place at his first attempt

first attempt.

Jamie Booth was next up in seventh place with what can only be described as a 'super human' run in his last heat.

Jamie really took his Topcat by the whiskers and dragged it into the top ten with a brilliant display of skill. The excellence of Jamie's run can be gauged by the fact that the next Topcat was in 39th place – 32 places lower than Jamie!

In eighth place was reigning 2WD World Champion Joel Johnson. Joel drove well to get the ill handling Ultima into the final again in his last heat. In the last two places were Jack Johnson and Ron Rossetti driving an RC10 and JRX2 respectively.

The two most unlucky stories of qualifying must be Butch Kloeber; eleventh fastest – always a terrible position to end up in. Gil Losi Jnr. was also causing controversy having qualified into the final only to be excluded for not marshalling! Other British results were generally less happy – most complaining of low grip from their Topcats.

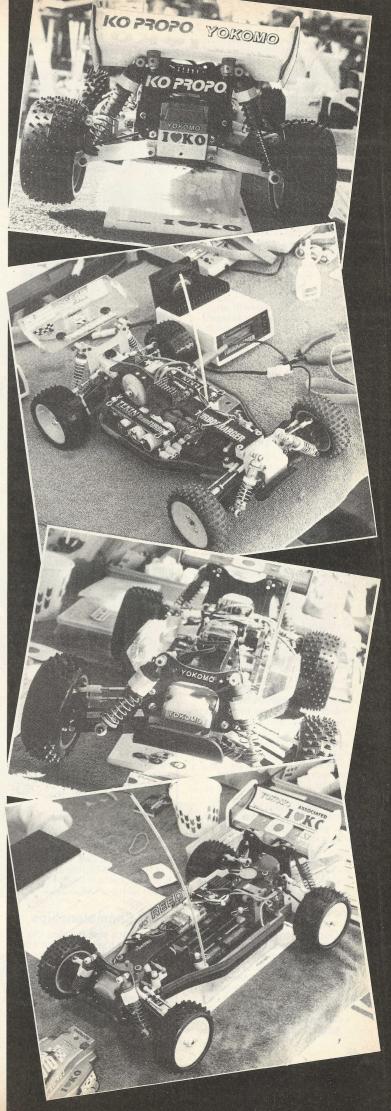
Finals

Two British drivers featured in the L final, Chris House and Mick Langridge. Chris came in seventh but Mick – suffering from a special 'Sydney' flu withdrew and was placed 120th! Next Brits up were in the I final, all four of them! Neil Stringfellow, Richard Isherwood, Andy Carter and Pete Winton coming second, fourth, fifth and eighth respectively. Parma drivers Pete Smith and Steve Brace featured in the H final coming home second and third.

All on his own in the G final

All on his own in the G final was Steve West finally coming home a lonely seventh. The F final had both Tim Walden and Pete Stevens, the final was won by Australia's Greg Collins with Tim and Pete in fifth and tenth places. Parma man Kevin Moore was still recovering from a bad dose of sunstroke and did well to finish fourth in the E final - hoping for a better result in 4WD. Fourth placed Brit was Phil Davies coming home fifth in the D final - not a good result for the ex Eurochamp. Rory Cull was the lone GB contender in the C final finishing up in a distant third with the winner being Gil Losi Jnr. driving the JRX2.

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Mr. Hirosaka Snr. mechanics Masami's new prototype RC10. Right: Pete Smith not only surprised a lot of people with his own performance but also helped out Pete Stevens.

Champs off with a fifth and seventh place.
Next up in the GB stakes were Steve West and Steve were Steve West and Steve
Brace coming home sixth and
eighth in the final. Onto the I
final and Neil Stringfellow and
Pete Winton - both these two
driving Procats headed the
field at some point but ended
up in fifth and seventh. Pete
Stevens led home fellow countrymen Andy Carter and Tim Walden in the G on the trio's way to seventh, eighth

and tenth.
Peter Smith did really well

surprising many, to place his Parma Procat in the F final ahead of most of his British ahead of most of his British
team mates - Pete came in fifth
in what turned out to be a
messy final. Kevin Moore made
the D final and attained 37th
place with seventh in the final Kevin was almost back in top form but next to no practice before the Championships
killed any chance Kevin might
have had of repeating his
performance two years ago at
Romsey.
Craig Drescher had a

miserable time in the C final

coming in ninth after being knocked all over the track. The B final featured Jamie Booth in B final featured Jamie Booth In sixth place on the grid – Jamie fought hard during the race to win the final and take a well earned if disappointing 11th place overall at the Championships.

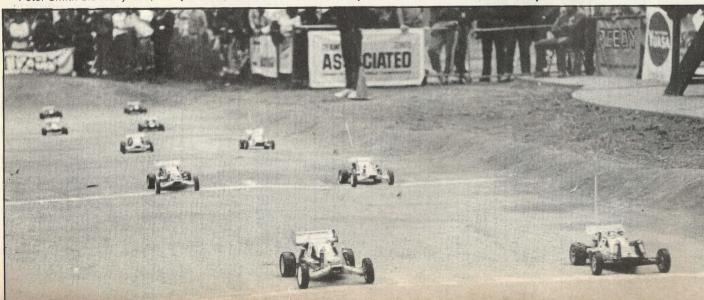
Main A Finals

In the first of the three finals Masami again got the break and proceeded to dominate. Cliff Lett came in second, Butch Kloeber third and Rick

Hohwart brought the new Kyosho Laser home in fourth. The talk of the pits was that the only way Masami would be beaten was a mass attack at the first corner – this being the only time anyone was near enough to him to chance an overtaking manoeuvre.

With this in mind the second heat got underway. Into the first corner Masami was

absolutely perfect – his car thrown sideways clipped the apex beautifully in a full, four wheel slide – from that first corner it was obvious he meant





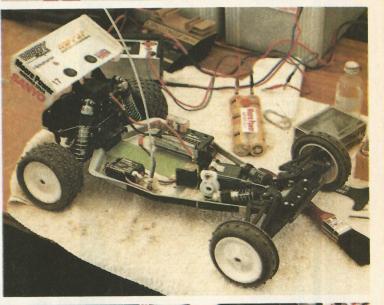


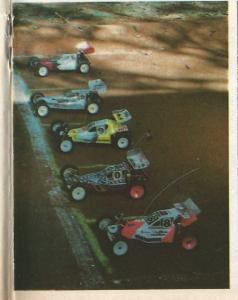




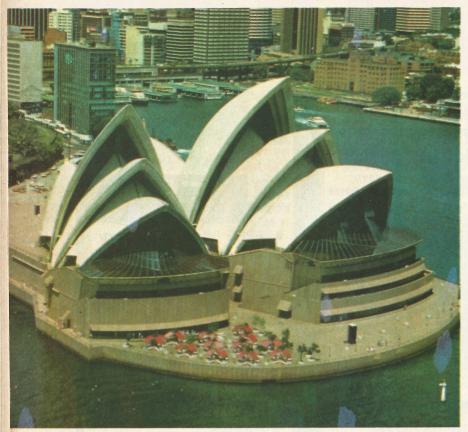




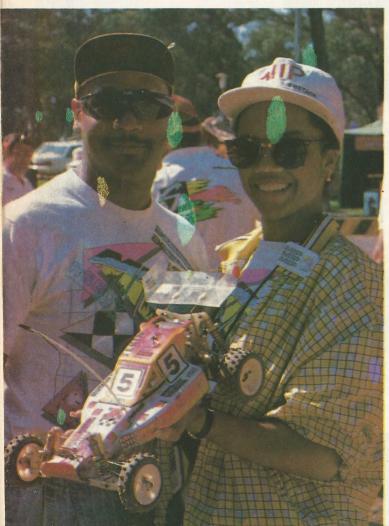














Top left: Sydney Opera House - certainly an impressive sight. Right: Rory Cull made the 4WD final. Left: Mr. and Mrs. Eustace Moore - two real enthusiasts. Above: latest Kyosho Ultima. Opposite: the very noisy British supporters! only joking. team.

Hurricane Hirosaka!

business! A succession of fast laps saw the first 18 lapper of the Championships and almost certainly clinched Masami's second World title in four days. Butch came in second with Jurgen bringing the Procat home in third. Cliff Lett was a steady fourth a further three

seconds behind.

With the Championship virtually over with Masami's crushing 18 lap run, the third round was run with almost a relaxed attitude. Amazingly Masami was hit during the first chicane and ended up in seventh place! This left Butch, Rick and Cliff to fight it out, eventually Butch came out on top with a brilliant 18 lapper – next up was Masami showing his shear brilliance whilst chopping through the World class field. In third was Rich Howhart and fourth went to Cliff Lett.

Well you guessed it! When the results were announced it was the double for Masami and an excellent and well deserved second for Butch Kloeber. In third was a real surprise, Rick Hohwart driving the new Kyosho Laser – obviously the more time on the circuit the better the car got. Who knows

where he would have finished with more practice?

Fourth went to Mr. Reliable Cliff Lett and fifth saw the highest placed Procat driver Jurgen Lautenbach. Sixth place was taken by Brit – Phil Davies and seventh was Mike Dunn driving the AYK car. Satoshi Kayano came home eighth in his first International competition and in ninth spot was Britain's Rory Cull. Finishing last but not least after a couple of unlucky breakages was Jay Halsey – the only man to appear in all three IFMAR World Champ Finals to date.

Summary

When the finals were all over it was agreed that basically the best driver won – Masami really was a peg above the rest, showing super human control of his car around the demanding circuit. His cars of course were good – but they were also driven in identical forms by other World Champs drivers; it really was the sheer skill of the young Japanese engineer that finally enabled him to take the double.

As far as the Brits were concerned both Jamie and Craig drove brilliantly to qualify

with an approximate figure of £9.000.000

with an approximate figure of £9,000,000 worth of R/C car racing equipment!

for the 'A' as did Rory and Phil for the 4WD 'A' – all these four showed that Britain can produce truly world class drivers.

Facts and figures

Australia hosted the third IFMAR Championships to be held and attracted 19 (the largest) countries to take part. There were approximately 140 drivers competing with an approximate figure of £9,000,000 worth of R/C car racing equipment! The track received around 70,000 laps from the various 2 and 4WD cars and held up excellently. For most people attending

I'm sure as for me Australia will be remembered firstly as a great Championship but also as a wonderful country. The friendliness and professionalism shown by the organisers was unsurpassed and the general feeling of the meeting was very friendly. Add to this such attractions as the Great Barrier Reef, Sydney Harbour and the chance to meet up with long lost relations and Australia will always have the winning combination. As for Masami, Australia represented his fourth entry in a row to a World Championships and a fourth win! Something that takes some thinking about.

World titles 'A' Main Final 2WD

Overall place/ entrant	Result Final 1	Result Final 2	Result Final 3	Total 2 best rounds
1. M. Hirosaka	17/5.11.23	17/5.16.65	17/5.14.45	34/10.25.68
2. J. Halsey	17/5.13.04	16/5.18.09	17/5.14.29	34.10.27.23
3. C. Lett	16/5.02.88	17/5.18.19	17/5.16.45	34.10.35.24
4. M. Dunn	17/5.18.74	16/5.04.69	16/5.11.67	33/10.23.43
5. R. Vehlow	16/5.06.40	16/5.01.34	16/5.09.55	32.10.07.74
6. J. Booth	16/5.04.90	16/5.12.21	16/5.06.46	32/10.11.36
7. C. Drescher	16/5.02.70	16/5.11.25	16/5.14.75	32/10.13.95
8. J. Johnson	16/5.07.81	16.5.17.26	16/5.09.49	32/10.17.30
9. J. Johnson	16/5.09.75	16/5.15.30	16/5.17.13	32/10.25.05
10. R. Rossetti	16/5.15.53	16/5.23.68	15/5.01.25	32/10.39.21

World 1/10 titles 1989 'A' Final results

Result Final 1	Result Final 2	Result Final 3	Total 2 best results
17/5.01.67	18/5.16.56	18/5.18.72	36/10.35.28
17/5.09.91	17/5.02.12	18/5.18.50	35/10.20.62
17/5.10.57	16/5.04.25	17/5.05.27	34/10.15.84
17/5.05.98	17/5.11.41	16/5.08.51	34/10.17.39
17/5.14.27	17/5.09.23	17/5.10.92	34/10.20.15
16/5.00.61	17/5.11.68	17/5.19.01	34/10.30.69
17.5.17.39	17/5.17.45	9/2.44.19	34/10.34.84
17/5.19.19	17/5.17.63	16/5.03.82	34.10.36.82
16/5.02.91	17/5.16.10	15/5.02.01	33/10.19.01
13/4.13.25	15.1.27.00	17/5.08.87	30/9.22.12
	Final 1 17/5.01.67 17/5.09.91 17/5.05.98 17/5.14.27 16/5.00.61 17.5.17.39 17/5.19.19 16/5.02.91	Final 1 Final 2 17/5.01.67 18/5.16.56 17/5.09.91 17/5.02.12 17/5.05.98 17/5.11.41 17/5.14.27 17/5.09.23 16/5.00.61 17/5.11.68 17.5.17.39 17/5.17.45 17/5.19.19 17/5.17.63 16/5.02.91 17/5.16.10	Final 1 Final 2 Final 3 17/5.01.67 18/5.16.56 18/5.18.72 17/5.09.91 17/5.02.12 18/5.18.50 17/5.10.57 16/5.04.25 17/5.05.27 17/5.05.98 17/5.11.41 16/5.08.51 17/5.14.27 17/5.09.23 17/5.10.92 16/5.00.61 17/5.11.68 17/5.19.01 17/5.17.39 17/5.17.45 9/2.44.19 17/5.19.19 17/5.17.63 16/5.03.82 16/5.02.91 17/5.16.10 15/5.02.01

1. M. Hirosaka JAP 16/512.5 RC10 2. M. Dunn USA 16/516.4 JRX2 3. J. Halsey USA 16/517.77 RC10 4. C. Lett USA 16/518.12 RC10 5. R. Vehlow USA 16/518.12 RC10 6. C. Drescher GB 16/518.94 RC10 7. J. Booth GB 16/522.26 Topcat 8. J. Johnson USA 15/501.27 Ultima 9. J. Johnson USA 15/501.27 Ultima 10. R. Rossetti 15/502.19 JRX2 GB times 27. R. Cull GB 15/507.52 RC10 39. P. Davies GB 15/515.1 Topcat 49. K. Moore GB 15/515.1 Topcat 52. P. Stevens GB 15/515.58 Ultima 56. T. Walden GB 15/517.63 Topcat 64. S. West GB 15/520.53 Topcat 72. P. Smith GB 14/501.7 Topcat 77. S. Brace GB 14/502.39 Topcat 77. S. Brace GB 14/502.39 Topcat 81. N. Stringfellow GB 14/503.63 Topcat 83. A. Carter GB 14/504.73 Topcat 83. A. Carter GB 14/504.73 Topcat 84. R. Isherwood GB 14/504.98 Topcat 87. R. Isherwood GB 14/504.98 Topcat 116. M. Langridge GB 13/514.2 Topcat

Qualifying list

	Name	Country	Time	Cal
	1. M. Hirosaka	JAP	17/512.22	Yokomo
b	2. C. Lett	USA	17/513.02	Yokomo
F	3. R. Hohwart	USA	17/513.16	Yokomo
	4. B. Kloeber	USA	17/513.58	Yokomo
	5. J. Halsey	USA	17/514.24	Yokomo
	6. J. Lautenbach	WG	17.516.88	Procat
	7. P. Davies	GB	17/517.5	Procat
	8. R. Cull	GB	17/517.74	Procat
	9. S. Kayano	JAP	17/518.37	Yokomo
	10. M. Dunn	USA	117010.0	AYK
	16. J. Booth	GB	16500.71	Procat
	22. C. Drescher	GB	16/503.1	Procat
	32. K. Moore	GB	16/505.57	Procat
	53. P. Smith	GB	16/510.26	Procat
	65. A. Cater	~GB	16/511.8	Procat
	67. T. Walden	GB	16/513/.05	Procat
	69. P. Stevens	GB	16/513.5	Laser
	87. N. Stringfellow	GB	16/518.1	Procat
	90. P. Winton	GB	16/518.85	Procat
	96. S. Brace	GB	15/500.42	Procat
	98. S. West	GB	15/501.35	Procat
	111.R. Isherwood		15.512.77	Procat
	117. C. House	GB	15/520.68	Procat
	119. M. Langridge	GB	14/506.44	Procat
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