

1999 European 1:12th Championships - Sweden

The 12th circuit European Championships were hosted by the Staffenstorp club at the Europaporten Hall in Malmo, Sweden. They were held in conjunction with the Swedish Motor Show which had some interesting exhibits, especially the 'Monster' bike with Megawatt stereo and independent hydraulic suspension!

The majority of the team flew from Heathrow to Copenhagen then after an expensive (and slightly uncomfortable) taxi ride, took the hydrofoil across the water into Malmo. A certain person, who shall remain nameless, was a relieved passenger. He had put his passport in his luggage. After some persuasion he got through passport control using his EFRA racing licence. They certainly have their uses.

On arrival at the hall, we found the track located downstairs from the main show. The pits gave ample room and power points. The track however was cause for some concern. One description heard in the pits was 'it would make a good 4-cell club track'. Not a good recommendation. It was narrow with very little room for overtaking and solid track markings meaning it had to be driven confidently and precisely to be quick. After hunting out the local Burger King it was back to the unique decor of the Skybridge Hotel (just 200 m from the race venue) for some well-earned rest.

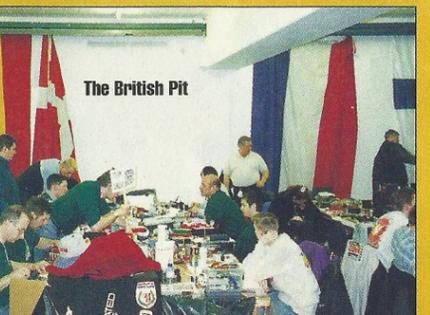
Qualifying

Day one at the track was for practise with a single qualifier at the end of the day. Practise was a mixed bag for the Brits with most peo-

See, I still do all my own pit work!



The British Pit



the brits dominate



The Associated of Phil Davies

ple finding it difficult to come to terms with the track and some rather inconsistent grip. For the 62 competitors it was into quali-

fying and at the end of the first day it was Superstar David Spashett, driving one of very few Trinity cars, heading the field with 40 laps 1.08 second split. This was 3 seconds ahead of Germany's Markus Moberers and another 6 seconds up on Finn Sakke Ahoniemi, both these drivers being part of a large Corally team. Some people had problems in this round and were perhaps not where they should be, but one performance worthy of note was that of BRCA treasurer Jim Spencer in 14th place.

Day two had 5 rounds of qualifying and a fantastic day it turned out to be for the Brits. With the grip now much more consistent (Corally TC1 was the only tyre additive allowed) it was into round two. David just failed to improve on his previous time, but Markus came to within 1 second with Sakke just one second behind. Phil Davies, the elder statesman of 12th racing, improved to 40 laps to be 5th overall with his Associated. Round 3 saw David break into 41 laps with an 8 sec split and Phil storm into second overall just 2 seconds behind, Sakke went third just pipping Markus' time.

Round 4 and David knocked 4 seconds off his time to still head the field. Up into second was Corally's Andrew Moore with 41 laps 8 sec split just a few tenths ahead of Phil. Markus also made the 41 lap club but dumped on his split time to be 4th overall. Round 5 and once again David improved, but only by half a second. It wasn't enough however as Andrew stormed to the top with 41 laps 3 seconds, much to the delight of dad John. Phil was still 3rd, Markus improved in 4th while into 5th came Sakke's brother Simo Ahoniemi, driving his Corally around to 41 laps 12 seconds.

Round 6 and could anyone break the Brit domination of the top 3? Neither Andrew or Phil could improve but David drove a fantastic race looking calm and composed to put in the only 42 laps of qualifying and earn a big round of applause from all those watching. Sakke just pipped his brothers' time by one second to go 4th on 41 laps 9 seconds. Markus managed to squeeze between these two and just behind Simo, the last of the 41 lap brigade, was former Euro champ Erik Jonk. The last three positions for the A-final were made up of locals Michael Fransson, Andreas Myrberg and top junior Jonas Andersson.

Top Ten - Qualifying

		Laps	Split
1	David Spashett	42	13.06
2	Andrew Moore	41	3.06
3	Phil Davies	41	8.76
4	Sakke Ahoniemi	41	9.19
5	Markus Moberers	41	9.63
6	Simo Ahoniemi	41	10.57
7	Erik Jonk	41	11.16
8	Mikael Fransson	40	0
9	Andreas Myrberg	40	0.06
10	Jonas Andersson	40	1.58



the Corally of Andy Moore



The 'A' finalists

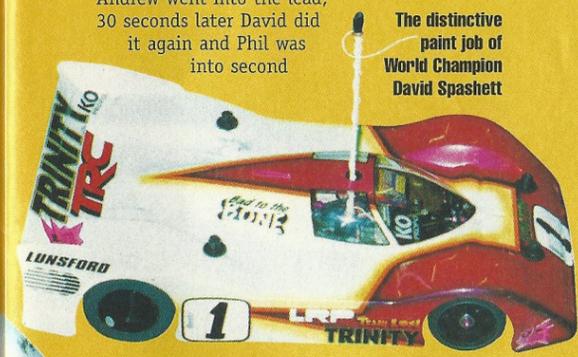
second to Andy Neubert of Germany on count-back. Roger Manwaring came home a frustrated 5th. The D final had Keith Robertson on pole, but a breakdown in the third leg meant Andreas Evander took the overall win with two leg wins to Keith's one. The C final saw another Brit on pole, this time

Jim Spencer, and also Nigel Hale. Nigel finished 5th overall while Jim ran consistently but could only take 3rd at the finish. Antti Vesikari from Finland took the win. No Brits in the B final but some excellent racing saw Pascal Van Houten from Holland take two wins for the overall win. Michael Nilsson took the other win for second while Oscar Jansen came in third.

'A' Final time

Onto the first leg of the A final. David and Andrew got away clean, but Phil clipped the first corner, dropping out with a broken T-bar. Up front, it was David from Andrew with Sakke in third. At four minutes David clipped a corner, Andrew getting through for the lead. David visibly upped the pace and at 6 minutes Andrew caught a barrier letting David into the lead again. They held station until the end of the race, David taking the win, Andrew in second and Sakke in third.

The second leg again saw the top two get away and Phil again clipped the first corner, letting Markus into third. These top four pulled away from the rest of the field and at two minutes Phil took Markus for third place. At 5 minutes David bounced off a corner and Andrew went into the lead, 30 seconds later David did it again and Phil was into second



The distinctive paint job of World Champion David Spashett

place. At 6 minutes Andrew made a couple of errors, Phil and David both getting past. At 7 minutes it was Phil from David with Andrew a couple of seconds back, David pulled a great manoeuvre to pass Phil for the lead, but a few corners later Phil tried a move on David that left David facing the barrier and needing a marshal. Andrew had slipped through to second place, then Phil's cells went soft making him easy pickings. Andrew went through for the win, David recovering for second and Erik coming home in third. Phil eventually finished in 7th.

The third and deciding leg of the A final was set to be a straight race between David Spashett and Andrew Moore for the title of European Champion, each driver having a win and a second place. These two streaked off into the distance, leaving the other drivers well behind. A couple of minor errors by Andrew gave David a comfortable gap he was never going to relinquish, holding this advantage until the end from Andrew who looked as if he had settled for second. Michael came home a very good third to give him third overall with Phil coming home in 5th, giving him a disappointing 8th overall.

So another European Championship for David, and with Andrew runner-up in what was his first Euros 'A' final an excellent result for the British. Along with Phil's qualifying performance, this showed the quality that a British National has. After the prize ceremony where Ian Spashett and John Moore got rather wet with bubbly, courtesy of their sons, it was time to pack up and get ready for the journey home.

A big thanks to those who had a hand in organising this trip and who made it so enjoyable. It was my first racing trip abroad, and it certainly won't be my last. Roll on next year's event, possibly to be held in Holland. RRCI

Top Ten - Finals

		Leg 1	Leg 2	Leg 3	Overall
1	David Spashett	1	2	1	2
2	Andrew Moore	2	1	2	3
3	Mikael Fransson	4	4	3	7
4	Andreas Myrberg	6	5	4	9
5	Erik Jonk	9	3	6	9
6	Sakke Ahoniemi	3	9	7	10
7	Markus Moberers	5	6	10	11
8	Phil Davies	10	7	5	12
9	Simo Ahoniemi	7	8	9	15
10	Jonas Andersson	8	10	8	18



David Spashett lifts the silverware

British Placings

1	David Spashett
2	Andrew Moore
8	Phil Davies
23	Jim Spencer
25	Nigel Hale
32	Keith Robertson
42	Paul Ash
45	Roger Manwaring
54	Derek Jones
55	Kevin Creaser
58	Chris Hardisty
62	Arian Plessius

No	Name	Car	Motor	Ratio	Cells	Speedo	Servo	Trans	Tyres F	Tyres R
1	David Spashett GB	Trinity 22G	Trinity D3.5 14 x 3	33.92	Trinity	LRP Quantum	Sanwa 141	KO Advantage	TRC Magenta	TRC Grey
2	Andrew Moore GB	Corally G3	Corally 15 x 3	34.00	Orion Vmax	LRP Quantum	Futaba S9602	KO Advantage	Corally Gold	Corally Gold
3	Phil Davies GB	Assoc RC12L3	Reedy 15 x 3	33.92	Orion Vmax	LRP Quantum	Sanwa 141	JR756	Jaco Purple	Jaco Grey
4	Sakke Ahoniemi Fin	Corally G3	Corally 14 x 3	33.00	Corally	LRP Quantum	Sanwa 141	Sanwa M8	Corally Gold	Corally Gold
5	Markus Moberers D	Corally G3	Corally 14 x 3	32.50	Corally	LRP Quantum	Sanwa 141	Sanwa M8	Corally Gold	Corally Gold
6	Simo Ahoniemi Fin	Corally G3	Corally 14 x 3	32.00	Corally	LRP Quantum	Sanwa 141	Sanwa M8	Corally Gold	Corally Gold
7	Erik Jonk NL	Corally G3	Corally 14 x 3	33.00	Robotronic Proto	LRP Quantum	Sanwa 141	Futaba Megatech	Corally Gold	Corally Gold
8	Mikael Fransson S	Assoc RC12L3	LRP Xyon 16 x 2	34.50	LRP	LRP Quantum	Futaba S9602	Futaba	TRC Black	TRC Black
9	Andreas Myrberg S	Assoc RC12L3	LRP Xyon 16 x 2	35.00	LRP	LRP Quantum	Futaba S9602	Futaba Megatech	Jaco Purple	Jaco Grey
10	Jonas Andersson D	Corally G3	Corally 14 x 3	34.00	Corally	LRP Quantum	Sanwa 141	Futaba Megatech	Corally Gold	Corally Gold