

WHAT: PETIT RC RACE WHERE: CHATHAM, KENT CLASS: 1:10 OFF-ROAD

# Calling 'Time

REPORT AND PHOTOGRAPHY TOM STACEY AND RACER MAGAZINE

**The third Petit RC Race headed to the UK and a new off-road venue at Maritime Raceway. Alongside the top home-based racers, the event also drew in the top talent from Belgium and France**

Petit RC have been running their popular annual race now for four years and for the third instalment (there was no 2008 race) Nicolas Petit, the boss of Petit RC chose to host the race in the UK. The intrigue of Petit RC meant that attendance was high with nearly all of the UK's top drivers and many famous names from the continent were in attendance.

The venue was always going to be a tricky one; Nicolas needed to combine easy access to Europe, an all-weather facility and plenty of space to allow 100 drivers per day to pit. The chosen club, normally better known for touring car events, was Maritime Raceway in Kent. One thing we can safely say is that the team at Maritime did a fantastic job of preparing a replica of last years track in France along with the now famous 'Wall of Death' that is designed to test drivers' nerve!

## SATURDAY - 2WD/ TRUCK

Saturday saw the two-wheel-drive buggies competing and with four rounds of qualifying, two finals for all drivers and a three leg A final for the top drivers, there was a lot to get through. Also running with the 2WD buggies was a heat of trucks, seeing their first competitive outing at a high profile UK event for some years.

The race was being run to BRCA/ EFRA-type basic rules although LiPo batteries were being allowed if the cars met the same weight as the



NiMH cars. Qualifying was FTD due to the consistency of the track and this seemed the most sensible option in the driver's view.

## 2WD QUALIFYING

This was pretty much dominated by the UK drivers, with the entire top ten being the home team. As the rounds progressed, Lee Martin (Associated) and Ellis Stafford battled for the fastest time. Ellis was running the new X-6 Squared car and led for the first three rounds but Lee pulled it out of the bag in the final round to take pole, knocking some six seconds off Ellis' time and knocking the current BRCA 2WD Champion into second spot.

Nathan Ralls was the only Kyosho in the A final and made a huge jump to slot into fifth spot with the RB5, one place ahead of the 2008 1:8 off-road Junior European Champion Elliott Boots and his LRP-powered Associated B4.



Lee Martin and his Associated B4 proved to be the class of the 2WD field

With a UK lock out of the top ten, BQ was taken by Bruno Heremans from Belgium. "Elvo" as he is more commonly known lined up in the worst position of all in 11th and just 1.2 seconds out of the A final.

POS	DRIVER	CHASSIS
1	Lee Martin	Associated
2	Ellis Stafford	X Factory
3	Tom Cockerill	X Factory
4	Richard Lowe	Associated
5	Nathan Ralls	Kyosho
6	Elliott Boots	Associated
7	Tony Truman	Associated
8	Chris Bowater	Associated
9	Grant Williams	Associated
10	Matt Benfield	Associated

## INTERVIEW WITH DAVE CHURCH



Dave Church is making a name for himself behind the microphone

More famous for his microphone skills than his driving, Racer decided to have a quick chat to former American citizen MC DC so that we would stop him from asking...

**Racer: What do you think of the Petit Race being here in the UK?**

Dave Church: It's wonderful to have indoor racing and such a high standard close to my home in Kent.

**R: What car are you currently running and what do you think of it?**

DC: I'm running the new Schumacher CAT SX and I think it's just wonderful. It was purpose built as an off-road racer and it's been great so far.

**R: What is the most exciting development in RC at the moment?**

DC: Brushless motors, 2.4GHz, personal transponders have

all been good, but the most important for me is LiPo batteries which we are using here today. It makes things so much easier for me.

**R: It's a bit of change period for RC don't you think?**

DC: Certainly. Technology moves really fast and it's great that it's trickling down to the grass roots racer like myself.

**R: So, you have a bit of a reputation on the microphone. How did that start?**

DC: I went to the Euros last time around and got to know Scotty Ernst who is the most famous RC commentator. He gave me some pointers and I kind of developed my style at Eden Park Raceway and it's snowballed from there really. Now I'm being invited to all kinds of events!

## INTERVIEW WITH NICOLAS PETIT

Nicolas is the man who put his name to a dedicated RC website and came up with the Petit RC races

**Racer: Bonjour! Bienvenue a Grande-Bretagne!**

Nicolas Petit: Thank you very much.

**R: We hear it's the tenth anniversary of Petit RC. Where did it all start?**

NP: Well, my brother was one of the top RC drivers in France and I



Dave alongside Nicolas during the finals



Nicolas with 2WD winner Lee Martin





Richard Lowe (centre) took on the X Factory team drivers to win in the truck class

## TRUCK QUALIFYING

The single heat of truck ensured an interesting time with a range of chassis' and abilities thrown in together. The slower drivers were the perfect gentlemen though and let the fast guys go round to put in laps that almost rivalled their buggy times! One thing was certain though, and that was that the spectacle of the big wheelers certainly amused the crowds and it was good to see their return.

Ellis Stafford topped the times after the four rounds, nearly five seconds

ahead of Richard Lowe's Associated. Ellis' X Factory team-mates lined up third and fourth with Dan Greenwood getting the better of Tom Cockerill who was enduring some radio issues with his X-60.

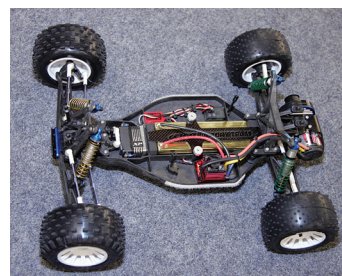
POS	DRIVER
1	Ellis Stafford
2	Richard Lowe
3	Dan Greenwood
4	Tom Cockerill
5	Michel Berty
6	Ben Hubbard
7	Paul Newman
8	Steve Thurlbourne
9	Sébastien Mure
10	Manolis Troulis

## A FINAL - 2WD

Leg one saw the pole sitter go wheel-to-wheel with Ellis who on lap two managed to pass Lee in mid-air much to the delight of the spectators. Lee dropped down to third as a hard-charging Tom Cockerill drove an incredibly consistent race to get up behind Ellis. At about half race distance, Tom took advantage of a slight error on Ellis' behalf to take the win in leg one by just four tenths of a second!

Leg two saw Lee get off to a good start and keep the hard charging Ellis at bay. Again Tom was pushing hard from third and managed to overtake Ellis as he crashed at the table top almost exactly where he had taken Lee in the previous leg! Lee succeeded in keeping Tom a good two seconds behind throughout the race to take the win.

The last race of the day was final A leg and spectators were gathering



Richard's TrakPower/Nosram equipped Associated T4 chassis



The heat of trucks with Tom Cockerill's X-60 in the foreground

everywhere they could to see the final showdown between Tom Cockerill and Lee Martin. Again, Lee got off to a good start leading the others around, Ellis was second and Tom third. Lee Martin drove a fantastic race in his usual faultless style to cross the line a lap up on Ellis to take the title of Petit RC 2008/9 2WD champion.

## A FINAL - TRUCK

Another three-legged final saw an X Factory X-60 majority at the head of the grid but the finals taken by an Associated T4. Although Ellis Stafford had put the X-60 on pole, it was more a battle of nerve as these machines could jump higher and harder than the buggies. In the end it was the Associated of Richard Lowe that took the win by staying together during some spine curdling crunches as they landed hard on the plywood table tops! Richard's truck appeared to be faster in the finals as Ellis rued not fitting new Mini Spike tyres.

have always been his manager. Before we started www.PetitRC.com I used to send faxes to my brother's sponsors letting them know of his results, and they would fax back new product info. When the Internet came to France I created the website and because I was putting the results of the big races online, I invited other people to join and put their results on too.

## R: Why did you choose the UK for the tenth anniversary race?

NP: Normally we race in Paris, but it was not possible to find a big enough venue this time. When I informed the drivers about this, we got some suggestions of possible other tracks, and in fact Fabien Simonini told me about this great venue in the UK called Maritime Raceway that race on-road. I contacted Ian Knight and asked if he could help and he said yes so I visited the track and once I saw it, I said yes, that's the place!

## R: What do you think of the track set-up?

NP: Well, it's the same layout that we used in the past, and the guys have done a great job of reproducing it here. The one difference is that everything is higher, the jumps, the wall of death, everything is bigger! I have three rules when it comes to track design, spectacular, technical and fun. I think this track has those.

## R: What do you think of the drivers here this weekend?

NP: I really enjoy having a lot of drivers. The ability of the drivers is very high, we have 7 of the A finalists from the last Euros here in the A today in two-wheel drive.

## R: What is Petit RC's future?

For me, currently, it's just a dream. In the future though, I would like to take the Petit RC race to the USA or even Japan and make this a worldwide thing. Today though, I'm really happy and would like to extend my thanks to Ian and Keith and the club here at Maritime.

## IN THE PITS

With everybody out in the open pits, it was a good opportunity for your Racer spies to see what was hot and unusual at this event. X Factory were debuting their X-6 Squared that includes numerous improvements over the earlier car and should be available by the time you read this. Yoann Bukowski from Team Pitt'yo was winding his own brushless motors, which is something we've never seen before. Apparently his motors can be wound to any spec you want and apparently run a lot cooler as he modifies the case to blow cold air over the rotor. Most of the major teams had their top guys in attendance and we saw Jamie Booth, Phil Booth, Robin Schumacher and Darren Boyle and others supporting their fast drivers. As well as the latest kit, we also saw the more unusual and even ancient in the pits. Scott Dickinson had his alloy chassised, Associated-based 2WD competing on day one and Manolis Troulis from Greece was spotted building his own bespoke 2WD, 4WD and truck



from hunks of aluminium live at the event, ably assisted by his girlfriend! Although James Instone brought the very latest Associated B4 Factory Team for 2WD, in 4WD he was running a 15-year-old Kyosho Lazer ZX in 4WD which he reckons is still the easiest car to drive indoors after all these years.





# RACE REPORT

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## SUNDAY - 4WD

Day two saw the four-wheel drive buggies out and the look of what was around the pit, it seemed that the recently released Schumacher CAT SX was the hot ticket. It is good to see the return of this great name to off-road, and the car certainly looked very fast and smooth on the track. The track layout was changed a little for Sunday, making it a little smoother.

## QUALIFYING - 4WD

From his first practice to the final qualifier, Hot Bodies' Tony Truman looked to be in fine form. He was the most aggressive on the jumps, ruthless with traffic and consistent lap times ensured he took pole position by some five seconds. Simon Moss lined up second as he improved his pace during qualifying and indoor specialist and truck winner Richard Lowe lined up in third place with his JConcepts BJ4 in third. Lee Martin battled through car and radio trouble to line up fourth but was clearly in contention come the A finals. One-eighth off-road star Elliott



Boots made his second A final of the weekend whilst pre-race favourite Ellis Stafford took seventh. His driving was certainly drawing in the spectators but some heavy crashes dropped him down the order. The only overseas racer to make an A final in the two main classes was Cyrille Baldini from France. Proving to be fast in 2WD and qualifying just out of the A final, he got his reward in 4WD and added to the mass of X Factory cars dominating the top ten in terms of numbers.

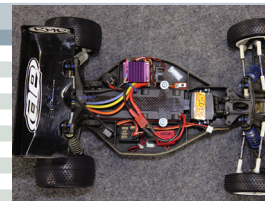


POS	DRIVER	CHASSIS
1	Tony Truman	Hot Bodies
2	Simon Moss	Schumacher
3	Richard Lowe	JConcepts
4	Lee Martin	Associated
5	Tom Cockerill	X Factory
6	Elliott Boots	Associated
7	Ellis Stafford	X Factory
8	Dan Greenwood	X Factory
9	Cyril Baldini	X Factory
10	Chris Bowater	Associated

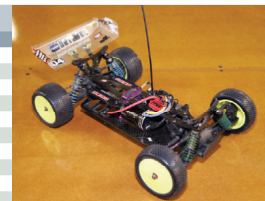
## A FINAL - 4WD

The first leg got off to an awesome dogfight between Tony and Simon with Simon crossing the line less than three-tenths of a second in front of Tony. With all to play for, it was quite a spectacle to watch and even race organiser Nicolas Petit got over excited at times! Leg two saw Tony pull out into an early lead and hold it to the finish line. Sadly Simon got caught up in some squabbling in the middle of the field and could only manage to finish eighth so it was all to play for in the third leg. Two-wheel drive champion Lee Martin pulled a win out of the bag during an eventful final leg, but with Tony third and Simon fifth, the title of Petit RC four-wheel-drive champion fell to the pole man and his Hot Bodies D4 - a result that was truly deserved with Tony being the class of the field throughout the day. ■

2WD TECH CHART									
POS	DRIVER	SPONSORS	CHASSIS	SPEED CONTROLLER	MOTOR	CELLS	SERVO	RADIO	GEAR RATIO
1	Lee Martin	Associated, Reedy, Novak, CML, Jab Graphix, RMR, MK Racing, JConcepts	Associated B4	Novak GTB	Novak 6.5L	Reedy LiPo	Associated	Sanwa M11	23/81
2	Ellis Stafford	X Factory, LRP, Racer, Decal Designs, Savox	X Factory X6 Squared	LRP Sphere TC	LRP 6.5	LRP LiPo	Savox	KD Esprit III	22/78
3	Tom Cockerill	X Factory, Novak, SMC, TrakPower	X Factory X6 Squared	Novak Slydr	Novak 6.5R	TrakPower LiPo	KD	KD Esprit II	23/76
4	Rich Lowe	JConcepts, TrakPower, Mirage, Nosram, Edit, GRP, Nortech, Body Paint	Associated B4	Nosram Matrix	Nosram 7.5	TrakPower LiPo	Ino-Lab	KD Esprit III	22/81
5	Nathan Ralls	Xtreme RC, Tekin, Mirage, MB Modeltek	Kyosho Ultima RB5	Tekin RS Pro	Tekin 6.5	Tekin LiPo	KD	Futaba 3VCS	21/78
6	Elliott Boots	SMD, LRP, JConcepts, Answer RC	LRP Sphere	LRP Sphere	LRP 6.5	LRP NiMH	Sanwa	Futaba 3VCS	21/81
7	Tony Truman	Hot Bodies, Mirage, Edit, Orion, Nosram, MK Racing	Associated B4	Nosram Matrix	Orion 7.5	Orion NiMH	Orion	KD Esprit II	25/81
8	Chris Bowater	Schumacher, BRM	Associated B4	Nosram Matrix	Speed Passion 6.5	Core RC LiPo	—	KD Esprit II	23/81
9	Grant Williams	Schumacher, Nosram, Mr O Foams, Piespeed, Racer	Associated B4	Nosram Razor	Checkpoint 12x1	Core RC LiPo	KD	KD EX10	25/81
10	Matt Benfield	Racer	Associated B4	LRP Sphere Competition	LRP 6.5	TrakPower LiPo	KD	KD Esprit III	23/81



4WD TECH CHART									
POS	DRIVER	SPONSORS	CHASSIS	SPEED CONTROLLER	MOTOR	CELLS	SERVO	RADIO	GEAR RATIO
1	Tony Truman	Hot Bodies, Mirage, Edit, Orion, Nosram, MK Racing	Hot Bodies D4	Nosram Matrix	Orion 5.5	Orion NiMH	Orion	KD Esprit II	17/84
2	Simon Moss	Schumacher, CML, Associated, Sanwa, BRM, Core RC, Speed Passion	Schumacher CAT SX	Speed Passion GT	Speed Passion 5.5	Core RC LiPo	Sanwa	Sanwa Exces	21/80
3	Rich Lowe	JConcepts, TrakPower, Mirage, Nosram, Edit, GRP, Nortech, Body Paint, Trish Bits	JConcepts BJ4 WE	Nosram Matrix ISTC	Nosram 5.5	TrakPower LiPo	Ino-Lab	KD Esprit III	20/81
4	Lee Martin	Associated, Reedy, Novak, CML, Jab Graphix, RMR, MK Racing, JConcepts, RC Art, SMD	Associated B44	Novak Slydr	Novak 5.5R	Reedy NiMH	Associated	Sanwa M11	19/84
5	Tom Cockerill	X Factory, Novak, SMC, TrakPower, DMS	X Factory X-5 Squared	Novak Slydr	Novak 6.5R	SMC LiPo	ACE	KD Esprit II	20/108
6	Elliott Boots	SMD, LRP, JConcepts, Answer RC, Savox	Associated B44	LRP Sphere	LRP 4.5	LRP NiMH	Futaba	Futaba 3VCS	17/84
7	Ellis Stafford	X Factory, LRP, Racer, Decal Designs, Savox, SMD, DMS	X Factory X-5 Squared	LRP Sphere TC	LRP 5.5	LRP LiPo	Savox	KD Esprit III	18/106
8	Dan Greenwood	X Factory, Novak, SMC, Body Paint, Nortech, DMS	X Factory X-5 Squared	Novak GTB	Novak 7.5R	SMD LiPo	Airtronics	KD Esprit II	22/110
9	Cyril Baldini	X Factory, Corally, SMS, SMC, Pityo, Petit RC	X Factory X-5 Squared	Nosram Matrix ISTC	Pityo 6.5	Corally LiPo	Sanwa	Sanwa	16/108
10	Chris Bowater	Schumacher, BRM	Schumacher CAT SX	Nosram Matrix	Speed Passion 5.5	Core RC LiPo	KD	KD Esprit II	21/80



## INTERVIEW WITH MANOLIS TROULLOS

For those of you who don't know Manolis, he is a 27-year-old from Greece who has been racing for 14 years and is famous for making his own cars

### Racer: You seem to building your own cars, why is this?

Manolis Troullos: I'm building my four-wheel drive here. The idea is to centralise all the masses in the chassis. This is the first time we have a shaft driven buggy where the motor and speed control are absolutely centred and I'm using a chain drive to transfer the power.



Work in progress - Manolis rarely has cars ready for races and builds them during qualifying!

### R: Do you think it will help your results?

MT: I'm not under any illusions that I'll do well here. I cannot devote enough time to driving as well as designing and building the cars. What I'm looking for is partners who will help me develop the cars, and I'm hoping to maybe find some today.

### R: Are you planning on making the conversions available?

MT: Yes, for the 2WD and truck I have a couple of chassis available as a conversion for the B4 and T4. They are completely aluminium and give you lots of flexibility in terms of weight distribution. So please contact me if you are interested.

**RM: Your girlfriend looks like she is busy helping you out. Are you a two-person team?**  
MT: Yes, she is the best machinist I have ever worked with!

### R: What do you think of the Petit RC Race and the venue?

MT: I like the fact the track and pits are so close to each other. I like the fact that weather is kept off us. It is certainly different to most other tracks. I think Nicolas has done a very good job.

### R: Will you be coming back for the next race?

MT: Yes, it's more than possible.