

# Race ace Scott's winning formula

Top schoolboy race talent Scott Mansell talks to **Matthew Panter**



**W**hen Scott Mansell was studying for his GCSE exams last month he had a novel way of unwinding at the weekend.

While most of his fellow pupils at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School would probably visit the cinema, 16-year-old Scott would be tearing around Europe's best motor racing tracks at 175mph.

The Sutton Coldfield student is one of the hottest young motor racing talents around, travelling to places such as the Czech Republic, Holland and Germany in the NDS Euroboss Championship.

The championship, which is featured on Sky Sports and Channel Five, is for Formula One and Formula 3000 up to 1997 and the teenager from Clifton Campville finds himself lining up on the grid alongside established teams such as Benneton, Ferrari, Jordan and Arrows.

It is a sudden rise to prominence for the mild-mannered teenager which has led many to tip him for greater things. He is already a regular on the pages of national motorsport journals.

"It's amazing to think how quickly I have got to where I am," Scott reflects.

"To be driving such fast cars already is great. I am fortunate that I have been in the right place at the right time."

Scott, whose hero is Michael Schumacher, first showed his driving ability at the age of four

when he was handed his first go-kart. He started racing at the age of eight.

"I started off doing karting which is a route a lot of racing drivers take," Scott said.

"It gives you confidence and experience in racing and gets you used to driving at speeds."

After winning numerous championships in karting he competed in his first car race last year, when he placed an impressive third on his debut.

He took part in a four race series in South Africa where his finishes included a first, second and third.

Now he is competing in a Reynard car which was previously driven by Christian Fittipaldi.

After failing to complete his first race in Ireland he qualified 11th in the Czech Republic and first in his class.

Scott is hoping his debut season will be the start of bigger and better things in the future.

"At the moment though I want to focus on Formula 3000 for at least a couple of years," he said.

"But Formula One has to be my ultimate aim.

"I have not really set a timescale for getting there but I am sure I can."



**At just 16, Scott competes in a car which was once driven by Christian Fittipaldi.**