

ROSS FROUD

22nd December 1988 to 25th May, 2003.
Ross died of a brain tumour at the age of 14

Ross Froud was a chip of the old block, the son who was very proud of his dad's achievements and involvement in motorsports, particularly Phil's exploits on motorcycles in circuit and motocross racing, so it was really no surprise that his own passion should be for anything with an engine.

As a family, the Frouds would regularly go to racing events, and young Ross first went to Le Mans at the age of four in 1992, and just fell in love with the noise, the smells, campfires, beer and of course the cars. The Le Mans trip became an annual event, but just three years later, during the trip to France with Phil, the first symptoms of his illness emerged.

During the following 8 long years Ross enjoyed some good long remissions, but these were interspersed with intensive treatment, including two sessions of major surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and bone marrow transplant. In all of this, Ross always tried to keep it in the background, pushed it aside to enjoy his life and to live for the day. He told me once that he always knew that, however bad he felt, tomorrow was going to be better, the sun would shine and he could get back to his bikes and his cars.

Ross had two old Ford Fiestas to tinker with and drive round in the field at home, he also drove Mums Discovery to help round sheep. But of course he started on bikes, he had a Yamaha at the age of 6, and quickly progressed up to a large collection of Buellaco off road bikes which he rode with Phil around the local countryside and woods. Many of these bikes would be stripped and rebuilt and modified by Ross, and he was very proud of his efforts and the results.

He was also a great lover of the countryside and the many animals he kept, his dogs, cats, chickens and ducks were also an important therapy for him, together with his very skilled craftsmanship as a model maker.

The love of Le Mans led Ross and Phil to look for a car that represented the best of that race, it had to be a GT40. Having looked at several alternatives, they bought a GTD from Steve Williamson. Ross immediately started on his quest to improve the car, get it ready for the club track day and most importantly the classic Le Mans in September 2002. As you will have read in the Autumn edition of this magazine, they did not quite get the car ready for our day in August (but they did make Le Mans. Accompanied by an assorted convoy of two ancient minis and an old transit campervan as service vehicles, Phil and Ross proudly drove down to Le Mans in the 40 and achieved a dream.

For all of those people who got to know him, he achieved much more than he ever realised. He made us re evaluate ourselves, he taught us to enjoy the day, he gave us a greater optimism and sense of determination than we would not have considered without him, and whilst he knew the inevitable he never gave up the ambition to enjoy each day he had.

The suns still shining Ross !