



The Beasty Festival

LAST August a celebration of Mark 'The Beast' Goddard's life took place at Towcester Racecourse. Darren Wright liveried a Volvo F16 in Goddard International colours in Mark's honour.

When Mark was getting cancer treatment he didn't want to be defined and dictated by it, explained Darren, who added: "He became so dapper, he got into Harley Davidson motorbikes, joined the Nene Valley Chapter in Northampton and with some friends did Route 66 across America on the hogs."

Fraser Towns, a driver at TS Transport since 2009, has taken on the new look V16 TST. It's an FH16 750 Globetrotter XL with a tag axle on full air suspension, and with a 3.4m wheelbase. It was sold to the business by Garry Whitelock, who is now the Volvo Truck sales director at Volvo North & Scotland.

The trailer is the Schmitz Euroliner. "I got that in 2018 and it was Mark's main trailer. It can do everything, it's a curtainsided trailer, but it has timber pins, sideboards, sliding roof and it runs on BPW drum brakes," Darren said.

A Fitting Tribute

When his close friend passed away last year, Darren Wright wanted to honour the memory of 'The Beast' Mark Goddard with a special liveried Volvo FH16, writes Kevin Swallow.

IT HAS been two years since Darren Wright last featured in Transport News, when we profiled his fleet of Volvo FH16s (TN, November 2020).

The Swedish product has been a constant in his life, and especially since he set up TS Transport in 1997 in Dundee. Another constant was Mark 'The Beast' Goddard. Their friendship spanned almost 40 years, until Mark passed away 12 months ago.

Darren first met Mark in 1982, when The Beast was an owner driver operating out of Southam, Warwickshire.

"I was out on my pushbike, and I saw this truck drive past the end of the road. So, I zoomed off down the road to see it and that was how we met," Darren recalled.

The connection takes on a particular poignancy today with the industry keen

to get the younger generation back into transport. Despite a 17-year age difference, their friendship would endure. "I am sure I was a pain, but he was absolutely brilliant with me," he said. "Because he recognised that I was interested in transport."

"He ran an F12 (XYT 242T registered in 1978) as an owner driver, trading as Goddard International, and worked for freight forwarder Anglo Overseas. When I was a kid, he'd return from Europe on a Saturday, and I'd go with him to Birmingham to reload. I was just a snout-nosed kid, but it was an adventure, and that's how it all began."

At 15, having moved between

