



Mark 'The Beast' Goddard with fellow TS Transport driver Steve Towns.

Warwickshire and Tayside several times, Darren left school in Dundee and started an HGV mechanic apprenticeship with Webster and Pattullo in Forfar before finishing his training with Rembrand Timber in Dundee alongside his father, Brian.

During the summer school holidays and then on holidays taken from work, Darren would often travel with Mark on multi-drop trips to Germany.

With Mark's encouragement, Darren had also taken his first steps into transport with a Mercedes-Benz 307D van complete with dropside body. On his 21st birthday in 1992, Darren started learning to drive a truck and passed his 'class one' test a week later.

Never one to shirk a challenge, and with next to no experience, Mark put Darren in a left-hand drive 1988 F16 with a stepframe trailer filled to the brim with 14 drops, and sent him to Germany.

He started in Dusseldorf and headed towards Frankfurt. "I was absolutely crapping myself," Darren recalled at the prospect, but he went, delivered and reloaded, and successfully used much of the advice he'd been given by Mark.

And that was how it continued through the 1990s with Darren working ad hoc for Mark when his mentor needed a break from the hurly-burly of European

groupage.

In 1997, Darren, encouraged by Mark, set up a garage and moved into transport, buying a 1987 Volvo F16 from Volvo Trucks salesman Bob Simpson. "It had a prohibition on it, and the owner wanted something new. It was tired.

"We restored it from the ground up at my workshop, my brother-in-law followed by my uncle came and drove it, hauling for Archbold out of Glasgow, and that was how TS Transport started, because of Mark."

Darren added: "I was his protégé, if that's the right word. He said, 'buy the best truck you can afford and don't skimp on it because it's your bread and butter'.

"He taught me everything, and he was the one I would turn to for advice."

In 2002 Mark was diagnosed with throat cancer. When he was forced off the road while undergoing chemotherapy and later recovery, he brought in a succession of drivers to keep his 51-plate FH16 520hp truck going before finally getting back behind the wheel when he got the all-clear in 2006. However, he couldn't keep it going and eventually wound up the business.

And then he called Darren for some advice. "Mark needed a short-term solution," Darren remembered. "So, I loaded an FH16-610 and a trailer

In 1992, aged 21 and shortly after passing his 'class one' test, Mark 'The Beast' Goddard sent Darren Wright to Germany in the Volvo F16 on his tod with groupage.



Mark Goddard was a serial winner at truck shows across the country, and especially at Truckfest, where in 1985 he won the best customised truck award with his Volvo F12 Globetrotter called 'The Beast'.

IN July 2021 Darren Wright moved his business TS Transport to new premises in Dundee, on the West Pitkerro Industrial Estate, with an exclusively 14 strong Volvo fleet, and this year the firm celebrates 25 years.

at Eurocentral and drove it down to Northampton where he lived. We delivered in London; he dropped me off at Luton Airport and that was how his time with me started."

Mark would spend the next four years on the road with TS Transport before taking another job for two years but returning in 2013.

His final truck was V16 TST, a 2019 registered FH16. He said: "Every day he would phone, speaking to me or my brother John in the office.

"He looked after all the trucks he drove; they would always be immaculate. And even on his final Friday with us he sent images across of the truck, tipped, cleaned and parked up, ready to go on Monday."

To honour his lifelong friend, Darren liveried V16 TST with additional paintwork, which was done by Bob Falconer from Arbroath. "Mark was 67, and had talked about retirement, and we thought about making a kind of tribute truck for him, but we were too late.

"Now that we have had some time to think about it, I was looking at V16 TST, and thinking that as he had been such a pivotal part of my life from childhood, I wanted his memory to live on.

"That was why we got the truck done. I wanted the Goddard International name to continue. I loved the man to bits, and I wanted to keep him around me somehow." **TN**

The detailed artwork was done by Bob Falconer from Arbroath.

