

Arthur Mallock

Major Arthur Mallock was looking up at me from the pages of last week's AUTOSPORT when the telephone call came to say that he was gone.

Arthur died peacefully at home in the early hours of Thursday morning. Few people outside the family knew of his courageous year-long battle against cancer but, typically, he had been talking enthusiastically about bump steer and wishbone angles the previous evening.

Only a month before, he had presided over the parade of Mallock cars organised in his honour by the 750 Motor Club. That Johnny Street brought his U2 Mk2 from the USA for the occasion is a measure of the regard in which he was held.

Arthur drove it with all the verve of a teenager that day, one which had sustained him through his declining health. And he was as fearless hurtling down an Alpine ski run, another passion for more than 40 years.

It seems impossible that Arthur has attended his last race, for his sporting career stretched back to 1935. In building his first U2 car in 1958, he laid the Clubmans formula's foundations — seven years before it started!

Equally brilliant as a driver and designer, he was twice 750MC 1172F champion in Mallocks. His legendary cars have long been dominant in Clubmans racing.

As with most boffins, Arthur's was a bizarre genius. Nobody quite fathomed how, with the aid of his 'string computers', myriad theories and much chin scratching, he made simple cars outperform very expensive ones.

He took particular pride in that, and in the achievements of sons Richard and Raymond, both of whom were champions in his chassis. It is comforting to know that Arthur's unrivalled contribution to club motorsport will be continued by 'the firm'.

To me, last week's photograph of Arthur captures him perfectly: as a dear old professor, who will be desperately missed. It also says 'Adieu friends.'

I hope that my supporting article (for that is what it was) will not be regarded as an inadequate tribute. Arthur did not see it, alas, but would have approved of its timing.

On behalf of Mallock owners throughout the world — Arthur's extended family — AUTOSPORT offers sincere condolences to his wife Kay, Dick and Ray, daughter Suzanne and their own families.

Arthur's funeral was yesterday (Wednesday), but a memorial service will be held at St Mary's Church, Roade, on Friday at 13.00. All are welcome.

■ Marcus Pye