

Name/age: Luke Evans - 25

Current role: Quality Engineer – Red Bull Technology

University attended: Oxford Brookes University

Year competed in Formula Student/role in team:

2010 – Mechanic & Fabricator

2011 – Team Leader

2012 – Chassis Group Leader



What is your fondest memory of FS?

There are so many brilliant things about the FS competition.

It's extremely rewarding to conceive an idea and see that idea right through from concept to manufacture. I enjoyed learning from team mates and then surprisingly I found myself passing those learning's onto new members and watching them enjoy FS even more satisfying. But I think ultimately the hard work and long nights to meet deadlines all accumulated to my third and final Silverstone FS competition.

After attempting and retiring from four previous endurance events, it was an amazing feeling to finally complete an Endurance. For me, winning was such a small part of the competition but to help bring the status of 'Top UK' university back to Brookes was the icing on the cake.

What was your biggest challenge during your FS project?

Apart from finishing an Endurance...It has to be People! People both within the team and the university.

Formula Student brings together many different, dedicated, driven and passionate people. These qualities coupled with the pressure of trying to complete a car in just 8 months, often causes problems. You have to learn that different people operate and react differently, and you have to see past these differences and adapt to work together to get the job done.

What did FS teach you?

It taught me about people, team work and a lot about myself.

Despite the missed lectures I spent in the workshop and exams I missed while at the competition, my grades significantly improved as a result of Formula Student. It gave substance to my lectures. I could see how university work could be applied to real engineering problems, how engineering theory applied to our race car. It taught me how to focus and develop my engineering skills by showing me the rewards to be had from engineering and team work.

How have you applied your FS experience in your current role?

On the most part, my FS experience has provided the foundations for me to continue learning in my place of work. The general engineering knowledge I gained helps me to communicate with colleagues and gives me a head start when solving problems. There have been a handful of situations where I have seen common issues at work, to those experienced in FS. It's very satisfying to already have the answer, when working in the top level of motorsport, because you witnessed a similar problem in FS.

Why would you recommend doing FS?

There are so many opportunities to learn and develop essential engineering skills with FS and to a certain extent, learning with FS is effortless. It's far too much fun to be considered learning.

Are you still involved with FS?

Not as much as I would like to be!

I'd love to be more involved and to pass on my learnings to new students but it's not something you can force. If anyone from OBR, or any other team for that matter, wants help and advice, all they have to do is ask. I still have a lot to learn and a long way to go to meet my career aspirations but eventually I hope to give back by being involved in the running of FS events.