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pretty stupid. I thought I did well."

Given the costs involved, the EuroBOSS event was a one-off. And to progress his career, Scott, who idolised Ayrton Senna as a child, needs investment.

He requires a budget in the region of £150,000 to fund a move into Formula Renault (from where McLaren title contender Kimi Raikkonen was plucked aged only 20) for next year.

And despite having the support of his father Kevin, himself an ex-racer and who runs his own motor racing team, Scott does not believe that is always to his advantage.

"Some will see me as only getting a drive because my dad runs the team and I need to be seen to making my own way through. Hopefully, someone will spot my talent and give me my break."

But what if the plans for motor racing stardom go awry? Fortunately, Scott, who studies in Sutton Coldfield, is a smart cookie.

"I got my results from my AS-levels and got four As, so I think I will have something to fall back on.

"I want to make it in motor racing but if I don't I want a job that pays me well enough so I can fund my racing!"

This whizz-kid has a lust

for motor racing and the name to boot. All he needs is a lot of money, a little luck and his undoubted talent should see to the rest.

■ Scott is already backed by two Tamworth firms, Drayton Manor Theme Park and Hive Of Beauty Ltd. If you too would like to invest in Scott's career, call Kevin Mansell on 0788 966 2444.

Above: Record breaker ... Scott and his 1997 Benetton in which he made history as the youngest Briton to race an F1 car. Left: Father and son ... Scott with his dad Kevin at Donington for the EuroBOSS race at the weekend.

Mansell sets F1 record

Tamworth's rising racer Scott Mansell turned in performances beyond his years at the EuroBOSS championship at Donington Park.

The 17-year-old A-level student drove his Benetton-Judd to a pair of podiums on a weekend when he made history as the youngest Briton ever to race an F1 car.

He even had victory in his sights at one point when he led with a handful of laps to go.

But he was more than happy to take a third and a second and with it the plaudits of a partisan crowd and impressed observers.

After stepping out of his 1997 ex-Jean Alesi Benetton, he said: "I'm absolutely knackered! But it was brilliant and I enjoyed every minute of it.

"It was fantastic to drive the Benetton. It

is so much easier to drive than a F3000 and gave me so much confidence even though I was scared stiff on the start line until the light went green."

Any nerves soon disappeared when starting from P2 in race one he was thrust to the front of the pack when leader Klass Zwart spun.

As the debris of another accident was cleared, Mansell led the field behind the pace car but when it peeled into the pits, he fluffed his restart and found himself down to third.

"I tried to bunch the field up coming onto the pit straight but it didn't work. I had to let Nick [Dhali] through otherwise we would have collided."

But he exacted his revenge in the second race, harrying Dhali lap after lap before pulling off an overtaking manoeuvre of which Alesi himself would have been proud.

He proceeded to pull away, lapping just shy of the pace of first placed Zwart who was driving a superior machine, and didn't put a wheel wrong before coming home a jubilant second.