

'My heart sank, I panicked at my leukaemia diagnosis'



Ross Torode is fit and healthy and in his last year of university studies to become a primary school teacher.

HEARING the dreaded word cancer, Ross Torode's heart sank, panic set in and it was the first time he had seen his father cry.

What followed was a hard and determined battle against leukaemia that eventually saw him receive a life-saving bone marrow transplant when a match was found by the Anthony Nolan charity.

Now he is now urging others to join the donor register.

Brighton University student and Guernseyman Ross, now 21, said it was in December during his GCSE year, coming up to mock exams, that he started feeling ill.

Doctors thought initially it was just glandular fever, but during a family holiday with friends in Switzerland concerns grew.

'I was getting more and more tired and lethargic - doing things like walking in snow was knackered,' he said.

'I'll always remember, a family friend, Charlie, and I made a jump by this lodge and were trying 360s.'

'On one attempt I stacked it and it felt like no matter how hard I breathed I physically couldn't get enough air into my lungs, every breath felt so heavy.'

'Little did I know that was my swollen glands trying to fight cancer.'

After returning home, Mr Torode visited the doctor urgently. A biopsy was done and days later he sat by his father waiting for the results.

'The doctor told me: "It's leukaemia". As an ever optimistic 16-year-old I said

by Paul Ainsworth

painsworth@guernseypress.com

"Oh, what's that then?" and that's when I heard those dreaded words "It's cancer".

'My whole heart sank, I couldn't describe to you a more horrible feeling. I started to panic, I didn't know anything about leukaemia, I'd only ever heard about cancer in relation to people dying. I didn't know what to think, like, am I going to die? It was the first time I ever saw my dad cry.'

Mr Torode had a minor operation to remove a gland, to gauge the cancer's progression, but by this point it was advanced and his lungs were so enlarged his lungs collapsed.

He spent two weeks in intensive care, followed by two chemotherapy treatments, which both failed, leading to internal complications.

'As a side-effect, it essentially melted all my digestive system, merging my stomach with my large intestine, which was by no means comfy.'

'As a result I couldn't eat or drink anything and was on intravenous food for several months and in a bit of a pickle.'

Mr Torode then faced having a major operation to address the problem, but a further infection saw him return to the operating theatre and an even bigger scar.

It was then Mr Torode was told he would need a bone marrow transplant.

His family were tested, but none were a match, so he was reliant on a stranger on the Anthony Nolan register to help him.

'My whole heart sank, I couldn't describe to you a more horrible feeling. I started to panic, I didn't know anything about leukaemia, I'd only ever heard about cancer in relation to people dying. I didn't know what to think, like, am I going to die?'

Ross Torode's reaction when, as a 16-year-old, he was told he had leukaemia

'Looking back, it was a life or death moment for me.'

'But at the time I never even considered that, it was always just a push and battle through each problem.'

He was back home in Guernsey for summer 2010, when he got the news that Anthony Nolan had found a match.

'Now that was a feeling that only the smile on my face could describe to you,' he said.

'It's mad to think there is this register out there of people who selflessly choose to save lives.'

Adam Gill's story Pages 24 & 25

Marking World Cancer Day

TODAY, World Cancer Day, four of the UK's leading cancer charities are aiming to unite the nation and show people that together they can do something about cancer.

Supporters are encouraged to buy a specially designed unity band, available from Cancer Research UK, Breast Cancer Care, Anthony Nolan and the Movember Foundation.

Ross Torode is sharing his story to mark World Cancer Day and is also taking on a #ColdThighsSavingLives challenge in aid of Anthony Nolan.

This will see him cycle to and from his university, a journey of around an hour a day, throughout the winter, wearing a pair of board shorts whatever the weather.

Mr Torode is in his last year at Brighton University studying to be a primary school teacher and volunteering for Marrow, a student group that supports Anthony Nolan by signing people up to the register.

'It feels great to be able to give something back,' he said. 'I know I can no longer donate my bone marrow, but I sure can help to get the message out that everyday people can sign up, if they're a match they could save a life, and no, it's not painful, it's simple.'

For more information about World Cancer Day and to buy any of the unity bands visit www.worldcancerday.co.uk. To sponsor Ross's challenge go to: <http://bit.ly/1jMePVI>.



Ross Torode spent two weeks in intensive care, had two failed chemotherapy treatments and a major operation before it was decided he needed a bone marrow transplant and a successful match was found through the Anthony Nolan charity.



t: 722700

MartelMaides AUCTIONS

ANTIQUE & MODERN AUCTION

TUESDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2016 AT 10AM-12PM LOTS 1-250, and 2.00PM-5.30PM LOTS 251-543

VIEWING: FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5th 8.30am-5pm
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6th 10.00am-2pm
MONDAY FEBRUARY 8th 8.30am-5.30pm
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9th 8.30am-10.00am













The Auction Rooms, Cornet Street, St Peter Port
Telephone: 722700. Facsimile: 723306 www.martelmaidesauctions.com
E: auctions@martelmaides.co.uk
Follow us on