**David Lindsay Maxwell**

Consultant Physician with an interest in Respiratory Medicine.

 Eastbourne District General Hospital

MA(Hons) Cantab, MBBS, MD(London), FRCP

(b 8 April 1951, q Westminster Hospital 1978, d 18 December 2023 of colon cancer).

David was born in Nairn, Scotland, the eldest son of a Black Watch officer who died when David was eleven, leaving him with a strong sense of responsibility for his mother and younger siblings. He was blessed with academic and natural athletic abilities, attributes he wore lightly, almost to the point that he felt embarrassed to have them. He had a happy school life, winning a scholarship to Eton College where he was also Captain of Boats. Before his medical training, he studied Natural Sciences then Social and Political Sciences at Cambridge and in both 1971 and 1972, rowed in their winning boat race crews and as one of the winning coxed pair at the national rowing championships. Notable also was his commitment to coaching the Cambridge women’s rowing squad who remember him running along the riverbank carrying his defective bicycle over his shoulder. His medical studies were at UCL and Westminster Hospital medical school when he was also part of the British rowing eight that took silver at the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

After qualifying, David’s postgraduate training and MD were in London. His training appointments were at The Royal London, Brook, Guys, Brompton, and Hammersmith Hospitals. He was not deflected by the notorious absence of consultant posts in respiratory medicine in the 1980s and it was in 1993, 15 years after qualification, that he was appointed as a consultant at Dartford & Gravesham NHS Trust. In 1996, he moved to a more professionally fulfilling appointment at King Edward VII hospital, Midhurst but was forced to move on again in 2000 by the government’s decision to close it. From then until his retirement in 2021 he worked as a hospital consultant in Eastbourne.

David embodied the ethos of the medical firm, teaching at every opportunity, supporting his juniors and also enthusing about their sporting interests. He had a hand in training most of the consultants in respiratory medicine in the South East and relished that role. He was famous for his tenacious but always polite and well-tempered support for part-time trainees, nurses, secretaries or indeed anyone else who was being unfairly treated, sticking to the task with gritty determination. He was the senior statesman of the department, always available to his team, articulate and a role model for his kind care and interest in his patients as individuals. He invested in his trainees, inviting them back to give talks about their research, praising their achievements, encouraging them in their progress towards future goals and taking an abiding interest in their careers. He often hosted dinners and departmental events with his wife, Maxine, at their home.

David was a sceptic with a dry sense of humour. He also enjoyed IT and developed, well before the days of electronic records, a computer programme that enabled the medical teams in Eastbourne to track their patients and find the results of investigations etc. He was a man with a firm moral compass and unimpeachable integrity. He was the same crusty but humorous, kind and caring person in every aspect of his life: un-showy, uncomplaining, focused, fair, and totally reliable. He combined this with kindness, humility, and a kind of gallantry, always mindful of others and often taking up causes on their behalves. He stood six’5”, courteous and ruggedly handsome. He seldom made any reference to his sporting or other achievements. Indeed, like the subject of the Rudi Lehmann poem *The Perfect Oar, ‘….And this perhaps is oddest, In one who rows and looks so well, He [was] supremely modest*’. He is survived by Maxine, their three daughters, and four grandchildren.

 Colin Kennedy