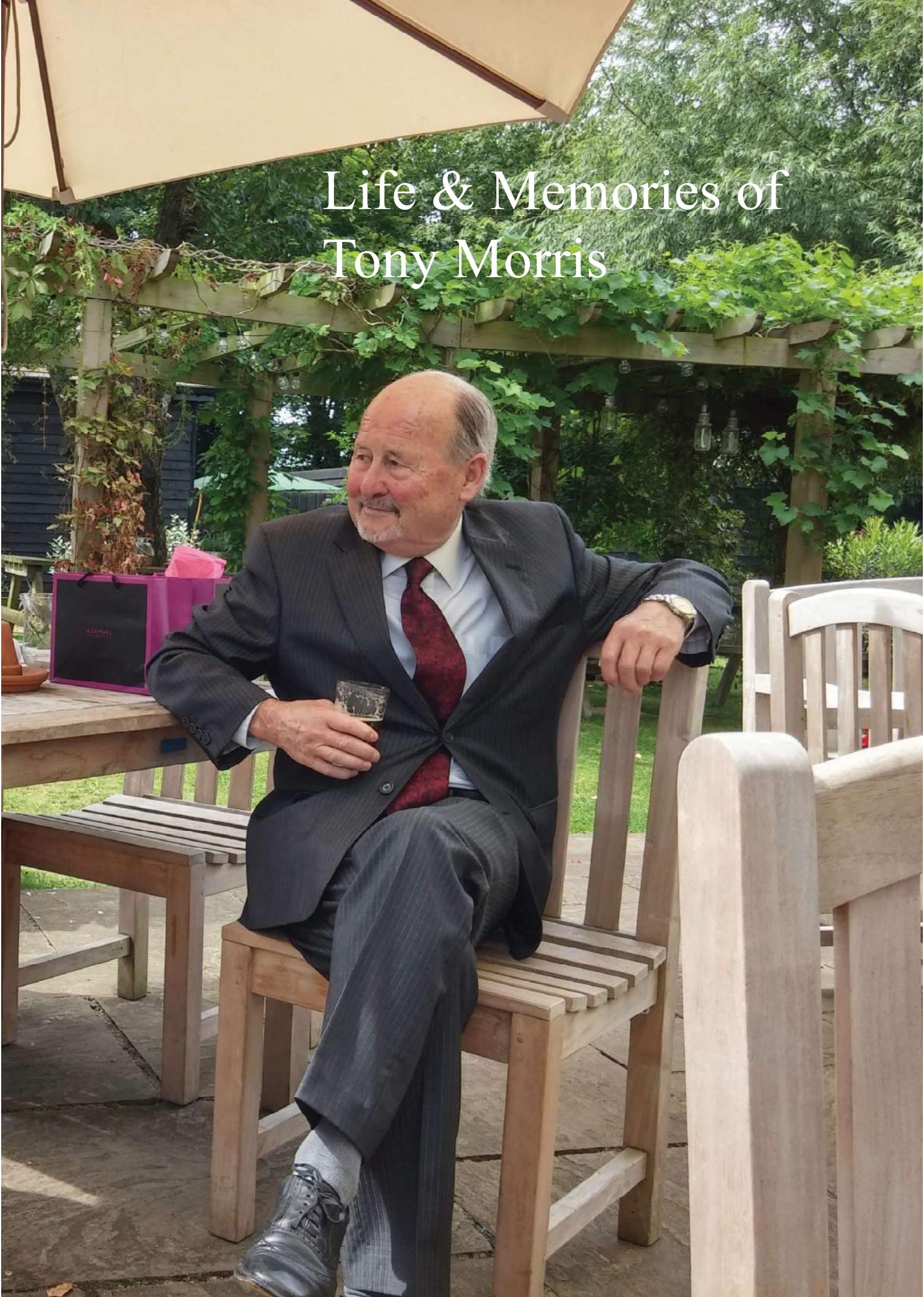
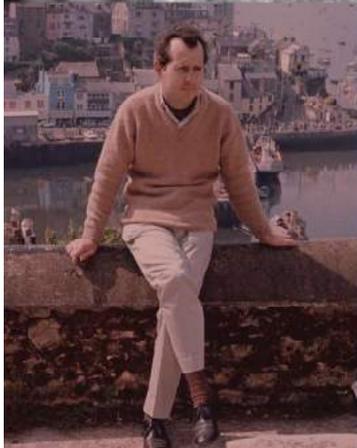
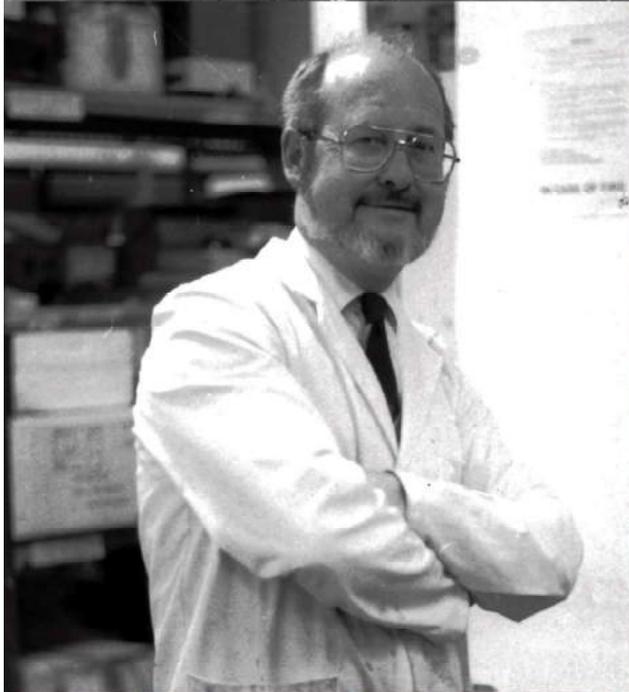
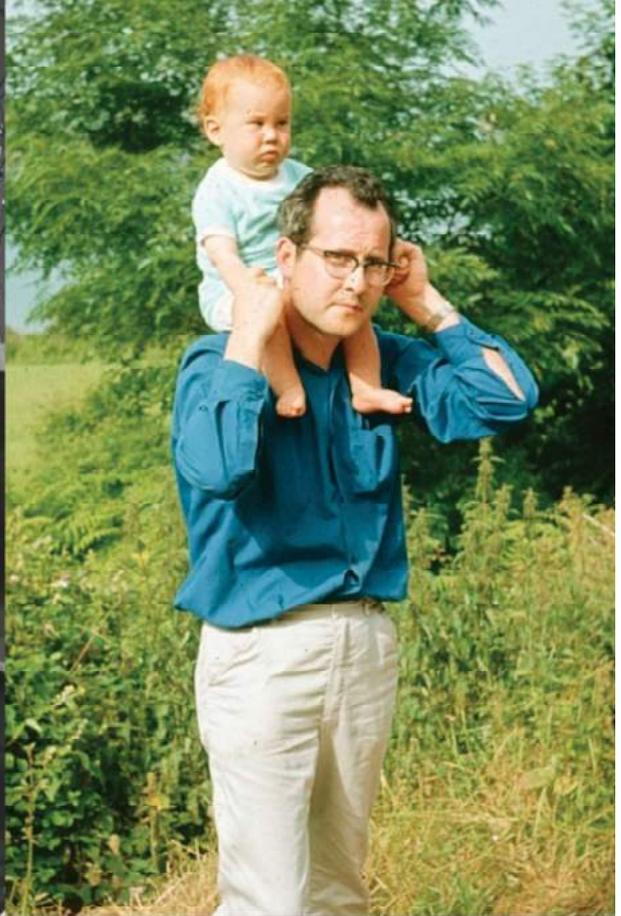


Life & Memories of Tony Morris





Tony Morris

An apprentice, a soldier, a golf course designer, an appalling Chinese violin player, an entrepreneur and boss, a drinking buddy known as Chiefy, a son & brother, a husband, a father and a grandfather.

Tony was so many different things to so many different people and had an impact on so many people in so many different walks of life.

Early Years

Tony was born on the 11 July 1938 in Pottton, Bedfordshire.

One of three brothers, Thomas, Derek and Tony.

Son to Alice and Jim.

In those days it was not the norm for children to stay on at school, so at the age of 16 he started his working life as an apprentice Scientific Instrument Maker.

By all accounts this was not a straightforward process.

Tony's mum Alice accompanied him to the interview and nearing the end of the interview she felt it was not going his way and had to do something.

"You know" she said pointing at Tony.

"He may not be the brightest lad in the bunch but he is very good with his hands!"

It appears this made the difference and he secured the position.

The apprenticeship was to sow the seeds of a technical aptitude that was to continue through out his whole life. This included being the camp draughtsman in the army, then working as service engineer for Oertling (his first introduction to weighing).

The Soldier Years

Tony was called up for National Service in 1961 and began his basic training in Catterick, North Yorkshire and then he joined the Royal Signals based in Loughborough. He later returned to Catterick where he received army training to be a draughtsman. In 1961 he was called up for active service in Singapore & Malaya, joining the 18th Signal Regiment HQ. During this period he served time in Malaya, Cameroon Highlands, Penang and Singapore.

Tony was particularly proud of his time as Camp Draughtsman in Singapore. Where one of his most notable responsibilities was to design and construct a golf course for Colonel Warren at the Princess Mary Barracks. When the British moved out of Singapore the site was taken over by Singapore Polytechnic and the golf course remained for many years. Some time later Tony returned to the UK for demob.

He spent his last night at Catterick Camp where he and a group of friends decided to go out for a big night in Darlington. On the way back they were in head on crash with a police car. Tony smashed through the windscreen and ended up in a sorry state on the police car's bonnet. He spent the remainder of the night in Darlington memorial hospital. The following morning and keen to get back to barracks Tony managed to persuade the somewhat reluctant doctors to discharge him, but only after he could prove he could walk 5 yards unassisted.

London- The Wild Years

The next phase of Tony's life took him to Stockwell, South London, where he shared a flat with Richard Quick (Fran's cousin). He described these as his "Wild Years". He lived a rather bohemian lifestyle socialising with many Irish "characters" connected with London Irish Rugby club. He grew a beard, let his hair grow long and enjoyed the swinging sixties with his eccentric group of friends.

During this time Tony frequented many of London's notorious night spots including the Blind Begger (made famous through its association with the

Krays) and the Finches on the Fulham road , Chelsea. It was here he enjoyed frequent drinks with Brendan Behan, widely regarded as one of the greatest Irish writers of all time.

It was through Richard that Tony met Frances who was training to be a nurse at St George's Hospital. And so the courtship began. Much to the annoyance of Fran's colleagues at the nursing home, Tony was of a persistent and determined nature, and made numerous calls and visits to the home to try and persuade Frances he was the man for her. He eventually wore Frances down and his relentless pursuit paid off. Tony and Frances married in 1965.

European Instruments

In 1972 the company Tony was working for Shandon Scientific was taken over and he left. It was agreed that he would take over the balance business and so European Instruments was born from quite humble beginnings in a garage in Homer Green, High Wycombe. Both Tony and Fran worked incredibly hard to make this business the success it is today.

Tony achieved one of his greatest business successes in 1989. Which was the design and build of 350 custom balances used for the weighing of nuclear warheads at the Atomic Weapons Establishment.

There you go. Perhaps not many of you knew the defence of the nation rested upon Tony's design prowess. This was a real achievement. Tony competed against all the big boys in weighing; Mettler Toledo, Sartorius, Avery and due to his design skills and determination he secured the contract. The balances remain in use today and in recent years the design has been updated and further balances supplied.

Paul particularly remembers this time and Tony's hands on approach to engineering, which he believes set EI apart from its competitors. Tony was always building prototypes and thinking outside of the box. Paul remembers him obsessing about the seal that should be used to seal the balance and still provide the required accuracy and repeatability. Through endless experiments he determined that the latex cut out of a condom was the best solution!

I see faces in the in the congregation the that would testify that at times Tony could be a hard boss but many of them would also say that he was fair. On that note. Dad would never let something like his death get in the way of business.

So dad you be pleased to note I only took one full day of work following your passing. Otherwise I am sure he would have found some way of sending me my P45.

Today the business turns over £2 million a year and employs over 30 people. The success of this business is real testament to Tony's true grit and determination.

Memories from people who knew Tony

Perhaps one of the best ways to remember Tony is to read some the kind messages and memories we have received from people he has come into contact with over the years.

John Bell (Fellow Royal Signalman)

I first met Tony in 1960, which was two years before National Service ended. Where in the world had we been posted? Singapore! You could call us 'the reluctant soldiers'. We were some of the last to undertake National Service and were older than the usual 18 years, having dodged the draft by various means, such as full-time education or other deferments.

I believe we first met in a transit camp at Nee Soon, which was very hot with 98% humidity. Eventually, we were relocated to Princess Mary Barracks, a very modern building for its time. (It has now been re-built and forms part of The University of Singapore). Many an evening, when not on shift, was spent in the NAAFI propping up the bar and consuming large quantities of Tiger Beer. I feel sure that amongst your Dad's keepsakes will be a picture of our group enjoying a few beers.

Once a week, at about 2100 hours, we would take several taxis downtown to Cambridge Circus to partake of an egg-filled bread roll. This was street food and was delicious – a bit better than the NAAFI. Some of our rest days were

filled by going downtown to the Britannia Club, (now the Police Station), and opposite the famous Raffles Hotel.

As for work? Well Tony managed to get himself the job of designing a 9-hole golf course. This turned out to be a great asset; I had coaching there in 1961/1962. I am led to believe that it has since expanded to the full blown 18-hole affair.

As part of combat training, a few days had to be spent up country in the Malaysian jungle in the Johor Bahru region. It was an experience not to be missed! On the top canvas of the trucks, and 'mossy nets' in place still no one slept for fear of the snakes coming in on the high tide and joining us before the morning. I feel that 'jungle boy' must have mentioned this experience to you and the family. He is still remembered by that name.

He may also have mentioned that he was not excused the experience of the weekly bed bug burn. This saw us setting fire to lighted paper under the metal framed bedsteads to kill off the bedbugs. Ugh!

Since returning to the UK in 1962, we have stayed in touch via The Royal Signals reunions at various venues around the country and latterly on the beautiful island of Madeira, where we have shared some pleasant times with Tony and Frances.'

Lofty Pennington (Fellow Royal Signalman)

Life in the army was not all about fighting the communists and drilling up and down the parade square and on occasions the opportunity arose to take some well deserved rest and recreation leave. Tony and his pal "Lofty" Pennington received such an opportunity, which of course they grabbed with both hands.

Initially they were hoping to get an "indulgence passage" (the mind boggles) on a troop ship to Hong Kong. This unfortunately fell through so they decided to take a rail trip to Bangkok, Thailand.

So the duo embarked upon a train trip that was to take two and half days, the first half was in relative luxury through Malaya and up to the Thai border. On boarding the second train in Thailand it became somewhat less luxurious,

sharing the carriage with the odd sheep and sinister farmer equipped with a pistol. It was also their first experience of spicy Thai food.

A number of toilet trips and sleepless nights later they arrived, tired but ready to experience everything that Bangkok had to offer. Two or three days into their Thai odyssey Lofty hooked up with a young lady who invited him to one of the Thai islands for a few days, so Tony was left to his own devices in Bangkok. Nobody really knows what happened during this time, but it is probably best not dwelled upon since Frances will be reading this.

Lofty's return to Bangkok was met with bad news. "I've got some bad news for you Lofty. We've been robbed" Sure enough both Lofty's and Tony's cameras had been stolen, so they stormed off down to the manager's office to demand action. The manager informed them that there was a sign on the back of the door telling all guests to leave their valuables in the managers safe.

Well that's it they thought there was nothing that could be done and the cameras were lost. On returning to their room they read the sign on the back of the door, except they could not it was in Thai, Chinese and Malay – not English.

They marched off back to the manager's office full of indignation. "How can we be expected to know about the safe, the sign is not in English." They demanded. "We are from the British Army and if you do not cover our losses then we make sure the whole British army will know about this and nobody will stay in your hotel" Well this clearly put the fear of God into him and he agreed to pay up. What a result!

It was at this point that perhaps Tony's entrepreneurial spirit and eye for an opportunity began to shine through. While Lofty negotiated a fair deal for the replacement of his camera, Tony began a negotiation process with the poor Hotel manager, which resulted in him receiving compensation in excess of the money he paid for his original camera. So it was back to Singapore with a pocketful of cash to buy an even better camera!

This negotiating prowess would serve Tony well in the later years when he set up European Instruments, where he would relish the cut and thrust of negotiations with suppliers. Many of whom bare the scars even today.

Tush Desai – Family Friend & Company Accountant

I got to know Tony back between 1991 and 1993, over 25 years ago and was tremendously impressed on how well his company was organised, structured and controlled. So much so that I always brought new trainee accountants to the organisation to train them in the various accounting functions and controls within the departments. Tony was always easy to talk to and work with. He was a stickler for time and was very loyal and fair. His main passion was to have a banter and a few drinks in his local pub. He amused me/us with his stories and adventures of life particularly in his travels to the far east, especially his posting in Singapore. I also found that he was always willing to help others so much so that even in his last few weeks, he phoned me on behalf of others to seek advice to pass on. I remember Tony's loyalty and friendship with a generous disposition.

Tom Richardson – Sartorius MD (Supplier to EI)

It's strange that I cannot remember what I had for dinner last night and yet can remember clearly what I had for dinner the first time I met Tony.

The meeting was at Bredbury Hall (infamous Hotel in Manchester) and I had Dover Sole with Capers, never liked caper since that meeting. It was 1980 and this was my first exhibition. Even though I had only been with Sartorius a few months, however, I was already aware of the formidable reputation of Tony Morris.

Tony joined us at the table and even before the meal was ordered the tirade began, a list of product problems, orders our guys had stolen from him and of course he was getting more discount from Mettler so we had to increase ours if he was going to sell.

Fortunately the tirade was aimed at my manager and I only got hit with the occasional ricochet, but nevertheless I was traumatised and the capers went sour in my mouth. As time moved on I became more resilient and Tony

mellowed ever so slightly but the theme of our meetings were often the same as the very first one.

Tony was a great guy and created a strong business in a tough market, something I always admired him for. Over the years I got to know him as not only a tough negotiator but an expert in weighing and always with a wicked sense of humour.

Jim Ohaus – Former CEO of Ohaus (Supplier to EI)

Tony was one of a kind, bucking the common wisdom in our industry, finding a special place for European Instruments to not only survive, but to prosper. He was a master at playing suppliers off against each other, while at the same time being an essential partner to us all. No one knew the balance marketplace like your Dad.

And he obviously enjoyed his work, never missing an opportunity for fun, even mischief. The famous OHAUS Rheinriver boat parties — Tony was the first one on and the last one off.

On my first visit to the UK after OHAUS had been be acquired by Mettler, I called on Tony in Oxford. After a withering barrage of threats and insults, it was time for me to continue on to a scheduled appointment with Mettler UK.

But, Tony wasn't done with his fun. He broke out his vintage RollsRoyce and insisted that he chauffeur me to Mettler headquarters setting up a very charged reception making one thing clear. In this new world of Mettler/OHAUS, Tony was still calling the shots.

Yes, I referred to him in a letter as a “crabby old bastard” He said he'd never forgive me for this, but he did - immediately, even if he feigned being insulted for years to come. Tony was an iconic figure in our industry and, more importantly, my good friend.

Adrian Hack – Sartorius (Supplier to EI)

I'm glad to have known Tony and will remember him as an adversary, a business colleague and a friend. We all know that the persona he sometimes liked to present to the wider world wasn't the real Tony and I always found

him entertaining and insightful company. Jousting with him was always a pleasure and we'll all miss him.

Alan Janes – Former Technical Director European Instruments

Tony Morris (TM) and Tony Everett (TE) went for a drink one evening with TM driving. As they neared the chosen watering hole TM didn't park by the pub but found a very quiet side street nearby with no street lights. When asked by TE why he hadn't parked outside the pub TM replied, "I've calculated that if you don't buy car tax you can still get a caught once every two years and still be quids in". It would seem that this continued throughout his working life.

Steve Ellis – Sartorius (EI Supplier)

Tony was the sort of person who one thought would go on forever and in my memory, he will. Had some of the most challenging meetings with him over three decades and some of the best. He was a legend in the industry and so good to know his legacy will live on with European Instruments.

Tim Watson – Ohaus (EI Supplier)

I'm so glad I saw Tony not so long ago when I bumped in to you all in Bury Knowle Park. He was a good man whom I held in very high regard and looked up to. I had known him a long time as our paths first crossed when I started my career in the weighing industry at A&D Instruments in March 1992. Back then I was an inexperienced 18 year old and he always took the time to talk to me and encourage me. As a successful businessman he didn't have to do that and from then onwards he always had my respect. He was also warm and welcoming whenever I visited Shotover Kilns and I always enjoyed our discussions about years gone by and how the weighing industry had changed, not for the better in most cases!

Mike Gibbs – Sartorius (EI Supplier)

My first encounter with Tony was way back in 1970 something, I was a very young salesman for the Scientific Instrument Centre happily selling Sartorius balances throughout the southern half of the UK. Tony was a salesman for Baird & Tatlock selling some rubbish called Stanton or Sauter (both names could be wrong) Much to my dismay the customer chose Tony's, and a long

term love hate relationship with Tony began! Happy memories of a certain night-club in Manchester and many meetings on the state of the UK market for balances. Tony became our most successful dealer and helped Sartorius gain great market share.

Richard Walker – Financial Director European Instruments

An Ode To Tony

My first encounter with Tony was at my job interview
I have had some strange interview questions, in the past, it is true
but When Tony said ‘right, now let’s talk about you’
I was surprised that ‘Do you like a drink?’ was question number two

Slightly over enthusiastically I replied
That, of course, I regularly loved to imbibe
Thinking I’d fallen into a trap
I quickly decided to slightly backtrack
‘In moderation of course’ - I hastened to state -
Hoping it was not, already, too late
But I realised there was no need to jitter
When Tony’s next question was - ‘Lager or Bitter?’
‘Bitter’ was my nervous reply
And a glint came into Tony’s eye
I realised that I’d answered just fine
and felt the job was as good as mine

One anecdote, regarding exhibitions, I can relate
It involved catching a ferry, for which he turned up late
‘Getting on’, he was told, ‘there simply was no chance’
but towards the ferry Tony had a quick glance
‘The ferry doors are still open’ he cried -
and his foot to the accelerator was swiftly applied
Onto the ferry ramp the Rolls Royce was sent
And Tony refused, categorically, to relent
Reluctantly they were forced to concede
and his boarding of the ferry, was allowed to proceed

Of Tony's character I'm not sure what picture to paint
Cos' a virtuous angel he clearly ain't
He is basically honest and suffers no fools
but is not averse to sometimes bend the rules

I recall a time, once, when I made a mistake
and the harsh edge of his tongue I was forced to take
I was informed that actually it could have been, much worse
as in fact he had mellowed compared with previous years.

But running a company is difficult, make no mistake
and difficult decisions, you have to take
In the companies success we all play a part
but it needs a driving force at its heart.
Tony possesses the necessary passion and fire
and that is something you have to admire

Memories From His Family

Frances

How to squeeze 54 years into a few words...
Always together and at home; often an agreement, often not.
Always caring for his family and many others.
He was ambitious, constantly outspoken, nothing hidden.
He was a raconteur, telling many an entertaining story, often more than once.
He was brave, tolerating his illness without complaint and putting on a good
front
He leaves a huge gap in our lives.

Paul

I will always remember Dad as as somewhat strict and driven; accustomed to
getting his own way. But, I also remember him as an honourable person who
was always willing to help somebody, always with little fanfare. Be it driving
his car at weddings, giving help and advice or helping people in difficult

situations. In his last days he was busily researching, helping and assisting even as his health failed him. He liked helping people I think. I will honour his memory by doing my best to do the same.

Chris

I wake some mornings and cannot believe Dad has gone, but in many ways he hasn't since he's always been and always will be a significant part of both my personal and work life. I will miss you Dad and the sadness I feel is not just for me but also my children, his grandchildren, who only got to know him for such a short period of time.

Sometimes it is more difficult to say thank you to those you love the most, but hopefully Dad, you understood that I was always very grateful for what you have done for me and the opportunities you have given to me and my family. Love and respect to you always.

Tom

I remember dad with a smile on his face, he would always want to have joke or put the worlds to rights. You could always rely on him to have an opinion about anything.

At times his humour could come across as somewhat acerbic, but it was always rooted in a concern for others. It was never mean-spirited, but in the hope you would do better.

Dad always pushed people around him to work hard and to improve, but he always lead by example and helped you whenever you needed it.

We all stand on the shoulders of giants, but dad was a titan and stood taller than most.





11th July 1938
to
6th May 2019