

# Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Kate Maynard at k.maynard@nature.com.

All submitted obituaries should be 350 words maximum in length (apart from obituaries for past presidents of the BDA where the length should be 700–800 words).

Content of the obituary is down to the individual author, and the approval of the family should be given for the obituary prior to submission to the *BDJ*.

## NORMAN KING COLQUHOUN



Norman Colquhoun died recently in Dundee. In 1993 he retired as Scotland's Chief Dental Officer, a post he had held with distinction for nine years.

Born in Glasgow, he received his early education at Glasgow Academy before becoming a dental student. In 1956 he graduated BDS with commendation from the University of Glasgow. After one year as a house surgeon, he entered his father's dental practice and, like his father before him, was appointed a visiting dental surgeon at the Glasgow Dental Hospital & School.

In 1967 he increased his dental hospital commitment becoming a part-time associate specialist in conservative dentistry and five years later he left general practice when he was appointed associate specialist in child dental health. He had special interests in preventive dentistry and in the treatment of the mentally and physically handicapped.

In 1977 he became a Dental Adviser to the Scottish Dental Estimates Board with a part-time teaching appointment at the Edinburgh Dental Hospital & School. In 1981, he was appointed Director of the Scottish Dental Estimates Board. In 1984, he was appointed Scotland's Chief Dental Officer and honorary senior lecturer at the University of Dundee.

Norman Colquhoun made outstanding contributions as clinician, teacher, administrator and leader. He had a calm, well informed friendly presence in committee, seeking consensus but always prepared to define and defend what he saw as in the best interests of

patients and his profession. He was highly respected by his colleagues.

He retired to West Ferry, Dundee in 1993 where he and his wife, Margaret, tended their beautiful garden and Norman kept tropical fish. He also enjoyed salmon fishing in the River Tay. Sadly, two years later he suffered a major stroke to which he responded with great courage and characteristic determination. Gradually with excellent medical care and Margaret's support, he recovered and was able to enjoy a further 16 years of happy retirement, retaining his interest in dental affairs until he died.

He is survived by Margaret, daughter Wendy, son Angus and his four grandchildren of whom he was very proud. Angus, a consultant oral and maxillofacial surgeon in New Zealand, continues the family association with dentistry into a third generation.

DM/AC/WS

## GORDON WEBSTER



Gordon was born in Glasgow on 13 January 1929. He was educated at Kings Park Secondary School and was an exceptional student as well as a good footballer. He

had a trial for Queens Park Football Club and up to his death on 11 December he claimed that they had never got back to him with feedback. He graduated from the University of Glasgow Dental School in 1954. Upon graduation he was offered a job in Ayr. He established a successful dental practice, brought up five children, became a forensic odontologist at the University of Glasgow Dental

School, acted as Secretary of Ayrshire Dental Society for 40 years and established a very impressive garden in Ayr as well as a hydrangea and rose garden at Maidens.

Gordon was awarded his postgraduate doctorate by the University of Glasgow in 1981. He would remind dentists who used the courtesy title Dr that his doctorate had been awarded on the basis of a thesis on forensic dentistry. In 1974 Gordon was appointed as the Scottish dental member of the Ministry of Civil Aviation Aircraft Disaster Team. He was appointed as a research assistant in Forensic Odontology in Glasgow Dental School in 1975 and remained in post for over 20 years. His expertise was based on his research into bite marks left by criminals on foodstuff at the scene of the crime.

To most dental professionals in the West of Scotland, Gordon was known as a busy general dental practitioner having practised for many years in Dronagan, East Ayrshire. He chaired the Local Dental Committee (LDC) as well as serving as chair of the Area Dental Committee and professional member of the Dental Service Committee.

Gordon was diagnosed with laryngeal cancer in 1996 and his larynx was removed. In true style he went on to become an expert in oesophageal speech and helped many other patients develop their skills. Subsequent to his operation he continued to chair committee meetings as well as delivering a short presentation to the Ayrshire Dental Society.

Gordon is survived by his widow, Christine, children Janis, Martin, Ritchie, Ainsley, Elinore and stepson Kenneth, as well as five grandchildren.

R. Broadfoot