

# OBITUARIES

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Ruth Doherty at [r.doherty@nature.com](mailto:r.doherty@nature.com).

All submitted obituaries should be 450 words maximum in length (apart from obituaries for past presidents of the BDA where the length should be 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*.

## REGINALD DINSDALE

1926–2016



Reg Dinsdale was born in Leeds on 17 October 1926, son of dentist Reginald BT Dinsdale and of Beatrice May. He decided to follow in his father's footsteps, gaining his BchD at

Leeds University in 1949, where he met Fay, his future wife. After qualification with a distinction in operative dental surgery, he worked as a house officer at Leeds Infirmary before joining the Royal Navy. He later transferred to the Royal Naval Reserve where he gained the rank of Surgeon Lieutenant Commander, gaining the Volunteer Reserve Decoration towards the end of his service. In 1959, he was appointed Consultant and Honorary Lecturer in Sheffield, specialising in oral surgery, after holding training posts at Guys and Newcastle and where he remained until retirement in 1990. He was involved in teaching students from the outset and was known for his kindness and approachability. Many of his past students and colleagues remember his meticulous clinical skills and gentle chair-side manner.

Reg was involved in postgraduate education and served as postgraduate dental dean for the Trent region from 1976–81. He played a major part in developing the national vocational training scheme. He also enjoyed research and innovation, publishing over 50 articles and papers, and writing two books. His book, published in 1985 by the *British Dental Journal* aimed at general practitioners, '*Viral hepatitis, aids and dental treatment*' was a popular reference book and to be found in most dental practices of the time. He felt very privileged to be awarded an honorary MD by the University of Sheffield in 1989 in recognition of his service

to the dental profession. He was a lifelong member of the BDA, serving as South Yorkshire Branch President in 1983, and was elected fellow of the BDA in 1989.

Reg retired in 1990, and he and Fay had more time to pursue a life-long interest in sailing, together with worldwide travel; however, he was devastated by Fay's death in 1993. He later married Jill and they were able to enjoy a very happy retirement together until his final illness.

Reg died on 9 February 2016 at the age of 89 and leaves Jill, his sons, Christopher, a retired dental surgeon, and Richard, a consultant anaesthetist, together with four grandchildren, three great grandchildren and an extended step family. His passing will be felt not only by his family but many former colleagues and friends who knew or worked with him, both in Sheffield and elsewhere.

Chris Dinsdale and Keith Figures

## TONY CHIVERS

1920–2015



Tony was born in a Somerset village near Frome, attending a small private school with 10 pupils where he discovered his talent for running. He left school in 1939

and attended Bristol University to study dentistry but at the onset of war volunteered for the Territorial Army resulting in his dental training and athletics being put on hold for seven years. Tony reached the rank of Captain before leaving the army and resuming his studies at Bristol following the end of the war. Whilst still a student he represented England in the Five Nations Cross Country Championship, winning the British Six Mile Championship in 1948 and only missed representing Britain at

the London Olympics through injury. He ran the 5,000 metres against the USA and subsequently won the 5,000 metres competing for Great Britain against France. In 1950 Tony won a bronze medal in the Empire Games in New Zealand. In addition to gaining BDS and LDS in 1950, he also won the Dental Gold Medal for his year.

Following qualification Tony Chivers spent 23 years in general practice, both private and NHS, and 12 years as a senior dental officer in the community services. From early in his career Tony took an active role in the local BDA becoming secretary and then chairman of the Southampton Branch as well as treasurer and president of the Wessex Branch Council where he served as President for ten years. He was made a Fellow of the BDA in 1982. Retirement did not cease Tony's involvement in sport, he was a founding member of the Medstead Tennis Club and was made a life member having had the club pavilion named after him when he raised funds to have it rebuilt following a fire. Running remained his love and in 2012, aged 92, Tony became one of the oldest torchbearers to run a stage for the Olympic Games Torch tour of the UK.

This is only a mere precise of the life of a remarkable man, Tony was supported during almost sixty years of married life by his wife, Daphne. He is survived by his son and daughter. For those of us who knew Tony and spent time with him it was a joy and a privilege; if you felt down Tony would always give you strength. However, the work he did with the Benevolent Fund and his insight in founding the Dentists' Health Support Programme and Trust has resulted in hundreds of dentists owing Tony a debt of gratitude, having benefited from his resolve to provide help and support for those in need in his chosen profession. Tony Chivers was a true gentleman and a remarkable credit to the dental profession to which he was proud to belong.

John A. D. Cameron