

Mr Barrie Thomas Evans (1946-2015)

BDS,FDSRCSEng, MB BCh, FFDRCSI,FRCS Ed, FRCS

Barrie Thomas Evans was born in India in December 1946. Sadly, he died all too early two years ago, in July 2015. Barrie was a wonderful person and fondly and deeply remembered by everyone who had the privilege of meeting him or even better still getting to know him. He was truly a renaissance man ; a husband , father, and loyal colleague , mentor and friend to so many. He was an outstanding doctor and surgeon and also an expert on sport, horse racing in particular, literature and politics. To sit and talk with Barrie was such an enjoyable and educational experience that one always left feeling the better for the conversation. His dapper demeanour, innate good humour and genuine kindness were an example to all.

Barrie's family were steeped in horse racing and his grandfather William Evans won the Melbourne Cup in 1907, despite fainting during the race having lost 20 pounds to make the starting weight. The family involvement in horse racing brought Barrie to India, Hong Kong and Australia during his formative years.

He graduated from Sydney University in Dentistry in 1971, top of his class, travelling to Cardiff to take up a post in Oral Surgery a couple of years following graduation. Subsequently Barrie graduated in medicine from Cardiff University and completed his training in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in Britain, Sri Lanka and Switzerland.

Barrie was appointed as Consultant in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Southampton General Hospital in 1988. During his career there, he established a pre-eminent centre for OMFS , along with skull base surgery in collaboration with his Neurosurgical colleagues. He is a founder member of the British Association of Skull Base Surgery, Past President of the British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Member of the Council of Examiners at the RCSI. He was awarded the Presidents Prize and the Down Surgical Prize at the BAOMS and during his surgical career published over 40 original scientific articles and numerous book chapters.

Barrie always enjoyed his visits to Dublin and Ireland, whether on vacation, work or as an examiner . He was a regular and keen runner and his typical day in Dublin would start with an early morning run around the streets. On a visit in 2015 he decided he should get elected as 'official guide to Dublin' and also declared himself a 'Dub' as he felt not many knew the street artists and musicians as well as he did. He also considered applying for an Irish Passport and 'was sure an Irish passport would have given him far more credibility' . He loved sitting in the coffee shops and 'hoped that they had them in heaven'.

Barrie appreciated that Christine, his wife, was very understanding in allowing him to indulge in the additional 'doses of Dublin' in 2014/2015 and felt that 'Dublin should be available in tablet form to be taken when one was feeling a little low and in need of a tonic.'

Barrie was a great supporter of the RCSI Faculty of Dentistry and was a frequent and popular examiner in the Fellowship Examinations in Oral Surgery at the Faculty. It is a huge pleasure for the Faculty to establish the Barrie Evans Prize linked to the Fellowship Examination in Oral Surgery with Oral Medicine.