

Garry Daintry
30th August 1938 – 8th January 2021

It is with regret I write to let the Membership know that Garry Daintry, Assistant Secretary 1986-2008, died yesterday.

Also known as the 'Gallant Captain', Garry served in the Irish Guards and had a distinguished career as a helicopter pilot. He worked for Digby, Johnny Moss and David Payne in his Cresta career. As neither Digby nor Lester Brewster were in the least technologically minded, it fell to Garry to grapple with the onset of computer systems and the digital age. It was not something that came naturally to him, but with typical perseverance and gentle obduracy he persisted, with the help of long suffering, better qualified wizards. There was one occasion when Garry rang the then computer Guru at 7 a.m. (Swiss time – 6 a.m. UK time) to gently advise him that he (Garry) would be ringing later that morning to get help on some glitch on the timing system. This communication was not greeted with the gratitude that Garry no doubt expected.

Garry, an ex-smoker, loathed the smell of cigarettes, which made life rather tricky with Digby, as the Tower filled with the fug of Digby's chain smoking. He managed to wangle a separate office in the Kulm, so that at least in the afternoons he could escape to this precious bolt hole, where he could work, keep in touch with his many friends around the world and meditate.

Over the course of his long Cresta career, he had 517 rides with 24 falls. Latterly, when riding from Top, he perfected the technique of digging his elbows (protected, of course, by elbow-guards) into the ice to slow his descent. It was a tip he was happy to pass on to other riders, and one for which many were grateful.

Long before cycling became so fashionable, Garry took it very seriously and in 2006 completed one of the stages of the Tour de France (an Etape) despite the fact that he was already suffering from heart disease. Garry came 242 out of 348 in the over 60s group – a tribute to the determination that was the hall mark of his life.

The last few years of Garry's life were blighted by mini-strokes and worsening eye sight, and he eventually moved to an excellent frail care facility in London, where he was always delighted and cheered by visits from friends.

His gentle demeanour disguised an element of steel in his personality. He was single minded in achieving his goals, as his success as a pilot, member of the Tower Team, and fitness fanatic so ably demonstrated. He will be missed by many and our deep sympathies go to Natasha, his daughter, at this sad time.

