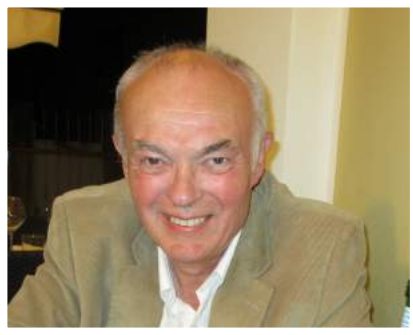


# OBITUARIES



Dr Rodney Wootten  
1946-2013

It is with a great sadness that we record the death of Rod Wootten, Editor of the Journal of Fish Diseases, on Friday 8th November 2013. Rod had been ill with cancer for about a year and was being cared for at home when he passed away.

Rod was born in Hendon, Middlesex, England in 1946. His parents were both postal workers. As a boy one of his favourite pastimes was to spend the day at nearby Heathrow airport and watch the aircraft departing for exotic parts, always hoping that one day he might be able to fly off there himself. He certainly achieved that dream in his role as an international consultant parasitologist.

His passion for parasitology commenced in 1964 with his BSc studies at Barking Regional College of Technology where he graduated in 1967 with a First Class Honours degree in Zoology, Special Subject Parasitology.

His PhD was carried out at the highly esteemed Imperial College of the University of London where he studied metazoan parasites of freshwater fishes. Throughout his career he valued greatly the

scientific rigour and adherence to taxonomic principles instilled in him by his mentors at Imperial.

After graduation in 1972 he began his career with a post at the Marine Research Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland in Aberdeen.

It was here that he first began his collaboration with Ron Roberts at Stirling on ideas for a new Journal specifically dedicated to fish and shellfish diseases. The Journal commenced publication in 1977. One year later saw the publication of 'Fish Pathology' the first high level scientific text in the English language on the subject. This text is now in its fourth Edition and Rod Wootten produced the parasitology section for all four editions. In 1989, as the Institute of Aquaculture at Stirling was expanding to meet its international remit, Rod was recruited to the post of Assistant Director and later as Deputy Director of the Institute.

In his 23 years at Stirling his level temperament and good nature was a perfect counter-balance to the exuberance and at times excessive enthusiasms of many of his senior colleagues. His willingness to seek fairness and compromise, to take upon himself any burden and to deliver results quietly and with great modesty was a hallmark of his great contribution. Many of us felt that his modesty meant that at times he was overlooked for preferment by those in high places.

Many Masters and Doctoral students passed through his hands and all benefitted from his experience, knowledge and keen

intellect. Many now hold senior positions throughout the world. He tutored large numbers of international students and was very active in exchanges and joint programmes overseas and was a first-class ambassador for the University of Stirling.

He undertook many consultancy tasks for the Institute, in South East Asia, in Bangladesh and in Europe. His particular expertise in the zoonotic fish parasites was called upon by expert panels in both UK and EU and he also developed great expertise in relation to that most serious group of fish parasites, the marine copepods.

Outside his work, Rod was always interested in music, art, travel, literature and theatre and in his 'spare time' he obtained an Open University degree in Humanities, specializing in English literature. He was a lifelong supporter of Arsenal Football Club and he was delighted when colleagues at the Institute secured a letter of congratulation from the Manager, Arsene Wenger for his retirement from the Institute in August 2011.

Science has lost a great contributor and his colleagues and students a great friend. Most of all however our sympathies go to his wife Joy and his daughter Millie and her family on their tragic loss of a beloved husband, father and grandfather.

Ronald J Roberts

Stirling 2013.