

## **Obituary** **Dr Robert Palmer**

Robert (Bob) Palmer died on 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. He had been Treasurer and Membership Secretary of the Society since 2019, and the Society has been the fortunate recipient of his enthusiasm and hard work.

Bob was born in Sheffield in July 1944 but moved south to Twickenham soon after. He qualified from St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London in 1968. He undertook his anaesthetic training at the Westminster Hospital in London and undertook his Senior Registrar Training on Winchester and Poole rotations. After his Fellowship and Senior Registrar posts he spent a couple of years working in Montreal and Victoria in British Columbia before moving to Worcester, Massachusetts, where he spent ten years as an Attending Anesthesiologist, refining his interest in obstetric anaesthesia and regional analgesia.

He then returned to the UK, first to a consultant post at Aberystwyth, and then to the much busier Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth in 1993. Bob was never one to be idle, and did not retire until his seventieth birthday in July 2014.

He maintained a loyal interest in his friends and colleagues, from his cohort as a medical student to his peers in Wessex.

Bob was an enthusiastic contributor to the RCA Lives of the Fellows project. He filled the important role of Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary of the History of Anaesthesia Society from 2018 until his death.

Bob was a talented sportsman. He excelled at tennis, and he was a top-class water polo player, representing the University of London, British Universities, and, in the National League, and the Otter Swimming Club. He continued to swim competitively past middle age, and held the British Over 60s fifty metre backstroke record for many years. He considered his life's greatest achievements to have participated and done so well in sport.

Most of all, Bob was a family man. His interests were complimented ideally by those of his wife Valerie. He was brilliantly supportive of his daughters

and ten grandchildren, and was always the ideal and ever available grandad.  
An obituary was published in Portsmouth News.

He will be widely missed.

Dr Ken MacLeod