



Jack Dalmeny

(1933 – 2018)

One of the founding members of the Association of Yachting Historians, John Dalmeny, always known as Jack, was the youngest son of Helen Reoch and Donald Dalmeny, and grew up in Strathaven, near Glasgow. His father, a mechanical engineer, was seriously injured in a road accident a few weeks before Jack was born and, sadly, died when Jack was only six years old. Jack remained very attached to his father's memory and spent many years trying to find out more about him.

With the loss of their father, Jack and his brother Donald and sister Helen were brought up by their mother who became the sole breadwinner for the family during the hard times of the War. Jack undertook his National Service in the navy in the medical division, and later served in the Lanarkshire Constabulary, which perhaps accounted for his strong sense of duty and respect for public service, which came to the fore in his later life.

In the 1950s Jack moved away from Scotland and was employed on a rubber plantation in Malaysia, a totally different way of life for him but which he remembered fondly for the interest in entomology and natural history that it awoke in him and which remained with him for over 30 years. More importantly, perhaps, it was also in Malaysia that he met his future wife, Jennifer Venner (who sadly passed away in 2016 after 56 years of happy marriage).

Returning to Scotland initially, then moving to Hull, Jack took up a career with the large motor companies of the era – Austin, Ford, Renault and Hendy Lennox - but he also pursued other interests by serving on various committees, for the Sail Training Association, the local Sea Cadets and several schools and charities. (In later life, in fact, he would become relief coxswain on the tall ships *Royalist* and the *Malcolm Miller*, helping young people learn to sail.)

It was the family's move to Portsmouth, however, that really shaped Jack's later years and interests. Before moving to Southsea, Jack lodged for a while at the Royal Naval Club and Royal Albert Yacht Club in Old Portsmouth and, after early retirement due to a heart condition, he channelled both his business expertise and his natural enthusiasm into serving the Club's interests, becoming the Club's Secretary and then Vice-President. Amongst other things, such as tracking down unrecorded club trophies, he identified all the members who had been awarded the Victoria Cross and published their stories as a small history book (a copy of which is now held at the Classic Boat Museum Gallery in Cowes). Finally, in 2017, he completed his history of the RN & RAYC which he said he felt was his true legacy.

Over the years Jack made many friends at the RN & RAYC, one of whom was Maldwin Drummond, and Jack was very proud to have helped Maldwin set up the Association of Yachting Historians back in 2004. Jack treasured the note that Maldwin wrote him: “I know all the members are grateful to you for all your efforts in establishing and nurturing the Association of Yachting Historians. You were the original driving force and we all owe a lot to you. Thank you on everyone’s behalf.”

Jack and Jennifer’s three children, Alex, Keith and Calum, paid tribute to their father at a Celebration and Thanksgiving Service held at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Southsea, on 11th December, 2018, and we are very grateful to the family for much of the information contained in the above précis of their eulogy.