

# Donald Norwood Menzies

*Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (b 1925; q Liverpool 1948), died on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017*

Donald Menzies was born on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1925 in Anfield. He was educated at Wallasey Grammar School. At Liverpool University his career was distinguished for his rugby; he represented English Universities and New Brighton as an aggressive, hard-tackling wing forward – ‘flanker’ in modern terminology. After graduation he obtained Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and Membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, later proceeding to Fellowship. He was a member of the Blair Bell Society, President of the North of England Obstetric & Gynaecological Society and an Honorary Member of the Gynaecological Visiting Society of Great Britain and Ireland. He has been an examiner for Membership and for the Professional and Linguistics Assessment Board (PLAB) in which International Medical Graduates (IMGS) have to demonstrate that they have the necessary skills and knowledge to practise medicine in the UK. Menzies was especially qualified to assess the candidates’ linguistic ability; his own command of English, particularly his ability to utter a telling phrase at the right moment, is legendary. For example, Menzies, when appearing in court as an expert witness, corrected the Judge’s slight misinterpretation of Menzies’ evidence. The Judge graciously remarked “Thank you Mr. Menzies, I am now older and wiser”. Menzies replied “Not wiser my Lord, but perhaps better informed”.

Donald Menzies was experienced and qualified in general surgery as well as gynaecological surgery. This wide ability was manifest when the surgery demanded knowledge beyond that needed for routine gynaecological operations; for example radical hysterectomy. Even the most extensive operations were well within his capability. I had the good fortune to anaesthetise his patients for most of his consultant career and remember virtually no intra-operative or post-operative complications. After our Tuesday afternoon sessions we invariably retired to the Racquet Club for a few frames of snooker. This continued throughout our retirement when we played at Woolton Golf Club until very recently his declining health causing him to give up golf and eventually even snooker.

Don mastered many skills, sailing a notoriously unstable Firefly, painting both oils and watercolours, playing Chopin, to name but a few.

Don married in 1947 Doreen Collinson, always known as Dee, with whom he had three children, Elizabeth, Michael and Janet. In 1988 he married Jennifer with whom he had Robert and stepson Richard. He leaves grandchildren Tom, Al, Bill, Emma, Andrew and Thea, ranging in age from two to thirty-three, and step grandchildren Eva, Finlay and Amani.

Don died peacefully on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

Dr A Gilbertson