

ELWYN CULE DAVIES, 1934-2009
President, South Wales Institute of Engineers, 2001/2002

After a long, patiently borne illness, Elwyn Cule Davies passed away at Morryston Hospital, Swansea on 28th April 2009. The funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Swansea held on 22nd May 2009 was attended by a large number of family and friends, and was followed by a service at Morryston Crematorium, and afternoon tea at Norton House, Mumbles. Moving tributes were given on behalf of the family by Elwyn's sons-in law, Mark Ritchie and Matthew Rees.

Following Elwyn's birth in Cardiff in 1934, his parents, Walter and Kathleen Davies moved firstly to Cambridge, then Lancashire and finally Leeds where he met his future wife, Barbara. His early education was at the Leys School, Cambridge where his life-long interest in the Scout Association began.

Elwyn's higher education commenced at Birmingham University where in 1955 he achieved a First Class Honours Degree in Mining Engineering. Following his initial degree and while working for the National Coal Board in South Wales, he pursued law studies in his spare time and in 1959 was admitted to the Inner Temple as a newly qualified barrister. In 1961, Elwyn was awarded a Master's Degree from his alma mater for his research into mining accidents in South Wales. Finally, in 1997, he completed his academic studies with the successful submission of a doctoral thesis on Total Quality Management in an aspect of motor car parts manufacture, to the School of Engineering at the University of Wales, Cardiff.

During a forty year professional career that commenced in 1955, Elwyn Davies amassed considerable expertise as an Industrial Engineer and Consultant with the N.C.B., South Wales, the Steel Company of Wales and BP Chemicals, Port Talbot, Aramco, Marine & Transportation and National Port Services, Saudi Arabia, Brimham Associates, Cornwall and Llanelli Borough Council.

Throughout his career, Elwyn associated himself with the professional Engineering Institutions, playing an active part in the South Wales and UK Institution of Mining Engineers. In 1963/1964, he became National Chairman of the Junior Council of that Institution. As a result of his career development, Elwyn was elected to the Institution of Electrical Engineers, serving in various offices from 1993-1999. As an active member of Council, he was elected to the Presidency of the South Wales Institute of Engineers in 2001/2002.

Elwyn and Barbara Davies were life-long friends and partners in their family life and related activities. The driving forces in their marriage were their daughters, Sian and Carol, the Church and Scouting. Their devotion to the latter two was second only to the support of their daughters and close family. While at school, Elwyn gained the Queen's Scout Award. Subsequently, such was his major contribution to the scout movement in Wales and Saudi Arabia, the Scout Association awarded him its highest award for adults – the Silver Wolf. In the Church too, he made a significant contribution in the quiet and unassuming manner that was his way of doing things.

Dr Elwyn Cule Davies was the son of proud parents, the husband and father of a loving wife and daughters, and the friend of many in the different areas of his life. He will be remembered with affection by all who knew him for his achievements, his integrity and good humour and his strength of character and unswerving sense of duty.

Dr Alun Isaac
Caerleon, 2009