Obituaries

Dr James Anderson Moncur, TD, MB, ChB, DPhys Med

It is with great regret that we heard of the death of Jimmy Moncur in December 1989 shortly after he moved from Glasgow to Wales to be near his family. He was born on 2 February 1919 and spent his early childhood in Dundee and obtained the Diploma of Physical Education at the Scottish School of Physical Education at Jordanhill College, Glasgow just before the war.

During the war Jimmy served in a combatant unit and afterwards studied medicine at St Andrew's University, qualifying in 1951. After house jobs he worked as junior hospital medical officer at Bridge of Earn Hospital Fitness Centre and took the Diploma of Physical Medicine. He applied his experience as a teacher of physical education to his clinical work and it was an obvious step to sports medicine. In the late 1950s he became the first medically qualified lecturer to hold a full-time post in the Scottish School of Physical Education, combining the teaching of applied anatomy and physiology with clinical responsibility for sports injuries within the school.

He joined BASM in 1963 and, with George Browning and Jim MacGregor, instigated its Scottish area. He was largely instrumental in the success of this semi-autonomous area and organised several very successful single-session and residential weekend meetings in various parts of Scotland. He was involved in the organisation of the medical services at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in 1970 and 1986 and he represented the Association in the International Sports Science Congress in Glasgow in 1986. He also organised several basic sports medicine courses. He served on the executive committee of BASM for many years, and was chairman of the Scottish area for a time. He was elected a vice-president of BASM in October 1983.

Apart from his interests in sports medicine he was a keen member of the Territorial Army, was awarded the Territorial Decoration and was deputy assistant director medical services for the region with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Jimmy and his wife Jean, also a member of BASM, were hospitable and thoughtful hosts, and I shall miss his friendship a great deal. We send our sincere sympathy to Jean and their family.

H. E. Robson

James MacGregor, MSC, PhD, FIBiol

It was with great sadness that we heard of the untimely death of Jim MacGregor – a great loss to the human science community and to my own family. Jim was born on 29 August 1932 and took his first degree at the University of Glasgow. In 1954 he was appointed a research postgraduate student in the anatomy department of Birmingham University, attached to Prof Peter Krohn’s unit working for the Ministry of Defence under Sir Solly (later Lord) Zuckerman.

Unofficially, in his spare time, he helped Dr Ernest Hamley of the physiology department and myself to organise and run the basic joint anatomy and physiology course for the physical education students which became the prototype for similar courses elsewhere in Britain. This stimulated his interest in human biology applied to exercise and sport. Early in 1956, his MOD work took him to South Australia to monitor biological effects of the atomic explosion at Woomera. After a year back in Birmingham Jim returned to Glasgow as a research fellow in the Gardner Institute of the University Hospital, working on osteoporosis and assessing stresses on the hip joint with a computerised force platform.

He moved to the College of Advanced Technology which soon became the University of Strathclyde and Jim was appointed reader in the department of bioengineering.

Among other duties he was external examiner to the department of human biology at Loughborough University and in this capacity met many of the sports scientists, several of whom joined BASM.

Jim’s involvement with the British Association of Sport and Medicine started in 1965. When the Scottish area was formed he was elected to the local committee and subsequently became secretary and finally treasurer. He served his term on the national executive committee and for a time held the office of vice-chairman. He organised several of the BASM’s one week basic courses in sports medicine and participated in others, representing the Association at international meetings.

At heart, Jim was a Highlander – a clansman of Rob Roy MacGregor, the Scottish folk hero. He usually finished up the sports medicine courses he organised with a Ceilidh enjoyed not only by the Scots on the courses but also by the English, other Europeans and some from the Third World. His most important role in the Association was to hold the Scottish area together and keep its members loyal to BASM.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Christine and to his children, all of whom have made successful careers for themselves with the support and example of their parents.

H. E. Robson

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