

Tribute to Tony R. Bull FRCS (1935-2016)



Tony Bull died in London on 19th April 2016 at the age of 81. Many rhinologists will undoubtedly remember him for the important role he played in advancing nasal plastic surgery but he was also an outstanding otologist and was elected President of the Section of Otolaryngology at the Royal Society of Medicine where he gave one of his most outstanding and memorable lectures on stapedectomy.

Tony, the son of a dentist was sent away to boarding school at the tender age of 5yrs. He later attended Monkton Combe near Bath, where he excelled both academically and on the sports field, playing tennis for Somerset and hockey at both at county level for Essex and at National level for Wales. His medical training was undertaken at the London Hospital and he was appointed as a consultant surgeon to The Royal National Throat Nose and Ear Hospital when he was not yet 30.

In 1970 he established the Rhinoplasty course at The Institute of Laryngology and Otolaryngology. He was an exceptionally good teacher and his lecturing skills combined with a wicked sense of humour ensured that this course would be a great success and was popular with ENT, plastic and maxillo-facial surgeons from the UK, Europe and further abroad.

He had many friends and colleagues in the USA and was aware that they had established the very successful American Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery. He set about, with his colleague Professor Claus Walter, establishing the European Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery. In the early days, there were some who felt that 'Academy' was inappropriate and initially the society was named 'The Joseph Society' in honour of Jacques Joseph who in the 1920's played an important role in developing techniques for aesthetic plastic surgery, including rhinoplasty. The first meeting was held in London in 1977. A few years later

the name was changed in keeping with the original suggestion, the European Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery and it is as this that it has continued to expand and flourish. He was elected President of the EAFPS and in due course of the International Federation of Facial Plastic Surgical Societies.

He remained an enthusiastic member of these organisations and despite developing bilateral vocal cord palsies, which left him with a hoarse voice, he remained in constant demand to deliver lectures both at home and abroad.

His Color Atlas of ENT, first published in 1974 was translated into numerous languages and is now in its 5th edition and continues to be a best seller. In addition to his many other publications, books and chapters he was for many years, with Eugene Tardy, the co-editor of Facial Plastic Surgery.

He was a boxing fan and would regularly fly off to Las Vegas with tickets to see the latest world title fight, a member of Queens Tennis Club and the MCC and remained a keen golfer to the end.

Tony was a loving family man, devoted to his wife Jill, his three children Amanda, Karen and Anthony and his six grand-daughters. He has made an extraordinary contribution to his specialty and will be sorely missed.

Ian Mackay