

TIM LAWSON-CRUTTENDEN 1955-2019



Tim's brother, Richard, said *"Tim was in the place he loved, and engaged in an activity he loved. In these circumstances, we as a family cannot think of a better place for him to have been than in Gibraltar"*.

An ex-Board Member said: *"Tim was a dear man; intelligent, kind, considerate and thoughtful to the core, and possessing a spirit which was catching - indeed inspirational. He was the perfect example of someone who always put the interests of others before his own, and no issue seemed to be undeserving of his sincere attention."*

A current Board Member said: *"Dear Tim - so active to the end - it is a tragedy, but he lived his life to the full which is how I will remember him"*

Our Chairman said: *"He had strong family links on the Rock and was a moving force as a trustee and director of the Friends of Gibraltar"*.

Other accolades about Tim flew in after his death and are too many to record here. They have been forwarded to his wife, Lorna.

Tim was born in London on the 23 Jan 55, first son of Arthur Roy Cruttenden and Phyllis Margaret, nee Watkins. He spent his early childhood and schooling in Gibraltar. His father was an Admiralty Civil Engineer who completed two tours of Gibraltar, (1958-62,1966-69) constructing the NATO fuel tanks at the Kings Lines; tunnelling, and building the munitions jetty on the East Side. From this arose Tim's great affection for, and connection to, Gibraltar. Tim also spent time in Scotland, (1962-64), where his father was building the munitions depot on Loch Long. Tim was educated at Harrow where he was awarded an Exhibition to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where he read History and Law.

His pre-university Short Service Commission as a Cornet of Horse with the Blues and Royals began in 1972. He would re-join the Regiment during his university holidays. Tim initially served in Cyprus as part of the NATO Peace-keeping Force and also undertook voluntary emergency service in Ulster.

After leaving the Blues and Royals he joined the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry and became Honorary Legal Advisor to the Blues and Royals. Tim retired from the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry in 1995, having commanded a squadron and with the rank of Major.

Tim's role as Honorary Legal Advisor to the Blues and Royals, and later also to the Life Guards, involved giving the soldiers pro-bona legal advice, often while riding out with them, and representing them at court martials. This role, which Tim undertook for almost his whole career, gave him great satisfaction and was particularly valued by those whose careers he saved!

As a pioneering Solicitor Advocate in London, Tim specialised in harassment and stalking, and co-authored two books: "the Protection of Harassment Act 1997" and "Harassment Law and

Practice". He helped in the drafting of the Protection from Harassment Act, 1997. He instigated ground-breaking injunctions to curtail protests, these included acting for Huntingdon Life Sciences and Oxford University who were being harassed by animal rights groups. He also worked against anti-corporate groups, and in reputation management and privacy law. Tim was involved in many cases which established precedent. He was the first solicitor to win a case in the High Court and the first solicitor to have a case reported in the Times Law Report. He went on to have two further cases quoted in the Times Law Report on the same day. Tim also loved to write letters to the Times. In fact, so many of his letters were published that the Letters Editor said "Mr Lawson-Cruttenden, this is not your personal letters page"!

Early in his many-faceted career Tim represented Johnny Rotten of the Sex Pistols, the Clash, the Jags and the Blockheads. More recently he won a High Court case against author and comedian David Walliams and model Lara Stone. For several years Tim was included in the list of the 'top 100 most influential lawyers in England' by the Law Society. He was Chairman of the Solicitors' Association of Higher Court Advocates (2007-9) and the Old Harrovian Law Society (2007 to date).

Tim was a passionate Christian, having become a Christian whilst at Cambridge University. He became a member of Holy Trinity Brompton Church in 1982, shortly after getting married. Tim and his wife Lorna led many pastoral groups, Alpha groups and marriage preparation groups at HTB. He visited Kenya and Tanzania on several occasions, where he taught advocacy to Kenyan and Tanzanian lawyers and worked with the Bible Society.

Tim was an active fund-raiser for many charities. He ran fourteen marathons, raising thousands of pounds for various causes. He was a friend and Director of 'Adventure *Plus*'. This is a youth charity which encourages 8,000 children and young people each year through outdoor adventures, inspiring them to make positive life choices, in an enabling Christian environment. He helped this organisation to attain charity status as far back as 1990 and has been a constant friend and supporter ever since, going far beyond the duties of a Director. Tim is already sorely missed by his fellow directors and the senior staff at Adventure *Plus*. Their prayers are with Lorna and his daughters Venetia and Imogen in their bereavement.

Similarly, Tim's support for the Friends of Gibraltar has been outstanding. He became a Member in 1991 and served as Treasurer and Events Director. Never far from the centre of any activity he arranged and introduced first class events to keep interest in Gibraltar high. His position is going to be very difficult to fill.

As an enthusiastic swimmer, he swam the Bosphorus Straits in 2013 and 2014 for Adventure *Plus*. He was in discussions about swimming round the Rock as a sponsored charity event. His recent visit to Gibraltar would have included a recce of the possibility of this.

Tim climbed Kilimanjaro in 2015, and earlier this year climbed Mt Toubkal in the Atlas range in Morocco. Tim remained passionate about squash and rugby and each year took his Harrow Football invitation XI to play the school.

Tim and Lorna have two daughters. Venetia lives and works as a solicitor in London, whilst Imogen is currently working as a trainee-lawyer in Gibraltar. Tim and Lorna had arrived in Gibraltar for the start of a two-week holiday to spend time with Imogen. Tim was very much looking forward to swimming daily off the Rock.

Tim will be remembered for his enthusiasm and generosity; radiant smile, larger than life personality, contagious Christian faith, deep affection for Gibraltar and devotion to his family. He will be sadly missed by all his family and the many people he encountered. Tim is an example to us all.

Compiled by Commodore Richard Lord CBE RN (Rtd) with inputs from family and friends.