

# Jack Harvey Rose

A GP and compulsive gambler who quit the habit and helped promote Gamblers Anonymous in the UK

**Jack Harvey Rose, general practitioner (b 1915, q 1938, University of Glasgow), died from bronchopneumonia on 13 October 2012.**

By the early 1960s Jack Harvey Rose's life had spiralled out of control. Professionally, he was a successful and popular general practitioner in London. However, in his personal life he had a problem. A big problem.

Rose loved to gamble. Even when he was losing he could not stop. By the summer of 1964 he had been on a long losing streak, with gambling debts totalling many times his annual salary. Worse, some of the debts were owed to his patients, who had unsuspectingly loaned him money.

Over the years his wife, Sally Rose, had "begged him countless times to stop and threatened to leave him but never did," according to Peter Rosengard, his eldest son. Rose's attitude was: "I've gambled myself into this mess, and I'll gamble myself out of it."

## An ultimatum

In July 1964 Sally Rose learnt of the London branch of a new group called Gamblers Anonymous. Newspaper articles at the time claimed that compulsive gamblers who regularly attended meetings could successfully quit gambling. Sally issued an ultimatum to her husband: either he attend Gamblers Anonymous and quit gambling or she and their three children would leave him.

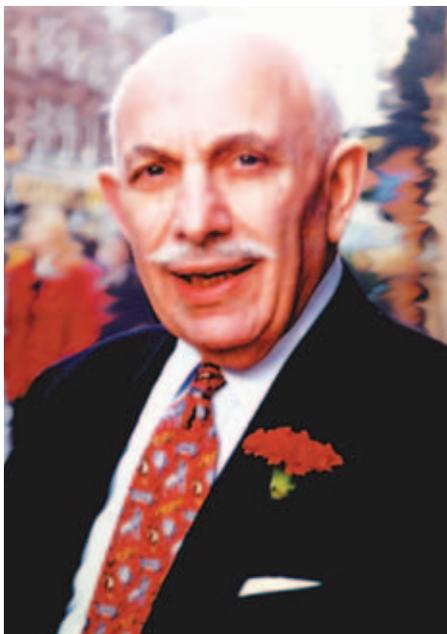
"Would she have really gone through with her threat to finally leave Dad?" muses Rosengard. "I really don't know. But it's irrelevant, and only she knows. The point is, he clearly believed it at last, and that is what drove him through the door at Gamblers Anonymous."

After enduring a couple of uncomfortable meetings, Rose took the first step of the 12 steps that Gamblers Anonymous asserts can lead to full recovery and a life free of gambling: he admitted that he was "powerless over gambling" and that his life had had "become unmanageable."

On 13 August 1964 Rose made the last bet of his life.

## Gambling and general practice

Jack Harvey Rosengard was born on 5 January 1915 in London, the third of eight children in a Scottish family that generally used the surname Rose. He grew up in the rough Gorbals district of



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Glasgow, where his father was "a bookies' runner, gambler, and drinker," says Peter Rosengard.

Rose was awarded a scholarship to Allen Glen's School in Glasgow and became the first member of his family to attend university, earning his medical degree in 1938. He served during the second world war as a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps in the Middle East, and in November 1945 he married Sally Silverstone in London at the New West End synagogue in St Petersburg Place, Bayswater.

He took over a practice of more than 2500 patients in East Acton, west London, in 1946, with Mrs Rose as receptionist and secretary. He was the old fashioned sort of family doctor, on call 24 hours a day, his devotion extending to buying widowed elderly patients budgerigars to keep them company. The practice grew to 5000 patients, and the family grew by three children.

Rose, an accomplished bridge player whose brother was Scottish champion, visited London clubs to play for money. In the 1950s he began to frequent dog tracks and horse racing and London's betting shops and casinos. His debts grew and grew.

"Our lives at home were not great, as you can imagine," says Rosengard, adding that

his mother loved his father "so very much and always kept believing that a miracle would happen and that he would stop."

Rose borrowed money from friends and family to cover gambling debts, often helped by his father in law. Finally, in desperation, he began to borrow from patients.

The miracle came at last in 1964 in the form of Gamblers Anonymous. After Rose quit gambling, he became a leading member of Gamblers Anonymous UK. He was the group's first secretary in 1965 and helped found groups in other cities, including Glasgow and Dublin, his son says.

And Sally Rose was active in Gam-Anon, the support group for friends and families of gambling addicts. Rose and his wife often travelled together around the UK to meetings and made several trips to the United States and Canada for Gamblers Anonymous conferences. Rose developed a reputation as an outstanding and funny speaker.

"Bernhard" from Cork, a friend of Rose who cannot be fully identified as he is still a member of Gamblers Anonymous, said of Rose: "He always reached out to new members, gave them comfort, and gave them hope. He helped a lot of people quit gambling and start new lives. We all looked up to him."

## Confession to patients

As part of the 12 step Gamblers Anonymous recovery programme Rose visited all the patients he had borrowed from and confessed that he was a compulsive gambler, that he was recovering, and that he would pay back his debts, says Rosengard. "He worked out a strict repayment schedule. Everyone got something every month, supervised by Mum, until all was repaid."

Rose was an even better doctor after he quit gambling—or, as he described it, after he no longer had the monkey on his back. When he retired in 1982, patients ran a newspaper advertisement, imploring, "Dr Jack Rose, Please don't retire! We will miss you." He attended Gamblers Anonymous meetings each week until he was 90 years old and in declining health.

Over the years, after the miracle of 1964, he was fond of saying that life without gambling made every day a birthday and a holiday and a winning post. "And every night's a honeymoon."

He leaves Sally, two sons, and a daughter.

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**Margaret Siriol Colley**



**General practitioner Nottingham (b 1925; q St Andrews 1948), d 20 November 2011.**

Margaret Siriol Colley and her husband established two general practices in Nottingham, and after her husband's death in 1972 she managed both singlehandedly before concentrating on the one based at her home. Around this time, aged 50, she took up sub aqua diving, a pastime that took her all across the world, and she regularly carried out medical examinations for those wishing to join the British Sub Aqua Club. Much of her retirement was devoted to researching the life and investigating the unexplained murder of her uncle, the journalist Gareth Jones, in Inner Mongolia in 1935. As well as giving lectures and media interviews she wrote two books and a TV documentary commemorating his life. Margaret Siriol Colley leaves four sons and nine grandchildren.

**Philip Colley**

*Cite this as: BMJ 2012;345:e7838*

**Peter Charles Collinson**



**Former general practitioner Rotherham (b 1913; q 1939), d 23 September 2012.**

Peter Charles Collinson served as ship's surgeon on HMS *Hurricane*, escorting convoys to keep the British war effort supplied. After the war he returned to Rotherham and joined his father's practice as a general practitioner, where he remained until he retired in 1988. In addition to his practice he was a hospital practitioner in dermatology at Rotherham Hospital, a police surgeon for the West Riding of Yorkshire, and

medical officer for the Lady Mabel teacher training college at Wentworth Woodhouse. He was a steward of the medical charitable society for the West Riding of Yorkshire and chairman of the Stoddart Samaritan fund for many years. He leaves his wife, Desne; three children; and six grandchildren.

**Charles Collinson**

*Cite this as: BMJ 2012;345:e7674*

**Peter Dovey**

**Former consultant radiologist Hillingdon and Mount Vernon hospitals (b 1940; q 1962; FRCR), d 27 August 2012.**

Peter Dovey trained in radiology in Bristol, Cardiff, and London (at the Royal Marsden), with a year spent in Jamaica. His interests included mostly breast and nuclear medicine imaging, although he practised, published, and presented across a broad spectrum of radiology. He joined Hillingdon and Mount Vernon hospitals as a consultant in November 1971, retiring in February 1999. He led the department during a period of expansion. He cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise funds for the postgraduate education centre at Hillingdon, drove the fundraising appeal for the first computed tomography scanner on that site, and, more personally, donated a kidney to one of his sons. He leaves Mary, his wife of 50 years; three children; and three grandchildren.

**Robin Kantor**

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**Surya Narayan Patnaik**



**General practitioner Sunderland, Tyne and Wear (b 1943; q 1967; MRCS Edin), died from metastatic sarcoma on 22 January 2012.**

Surya Narayan Patnaik qualified from Burla Medical College and came to the UK in 1973, working in general medicine and anaesthesia. He later pursued a career in general practice and in 1986 was made a full time partner of

a practice in Sunderland, Tyne and Wear. In parallel with his GP commitments he held the position of secretary for the BMA Sunderland division for eight years and was secretary for the local medical committee. After an operation to remove a soft tissue sarcoma from his knee he attempted to return to work, but retired owing to ill health in 2008. He leaves his wife, Sharmistha; three daughters; and two grandchildren.

**Lisa Patnaik**

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**Howard Alan Scott**



**Former general practitioner Newburn, Newcastle upon Tyne (b 1923; q Newcastle 1945), d 9 September 2012.**

Although Howard Alan Scott initially wanted to train in surgery, it was in general practice that he found his calling after army service. With his wife Sheila as receptionist and manager, he ran a singlehanded practice from his house for many years, before training countless colleagues who have gone on to work around the region. He served Newburn's population for 40 years, administering to generations of families. He retired in 1987 to indulge his other passions of golf and horse racing and was an active member of his parish church. Predeceased by Sheila in 2005, he was diagnosed with oesophageal cancer in 2010. He leaves two daughters, six grandchildren, one great grandchild, and another on the way.

**Amanda Barclay**

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**John Anthony Clark Wilson**

**Former consultant physician Hope Hospital and Salford Royal Hospital, Manchester (b 1918; q Edinburgh 1941; FRCP), d 7 May 2012.**

John Anthony Clark Wilson ("Tony"), a graduate of Edinburgh University, trained at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children before serving in the Royal Air Force in 1942-5. He specialised in

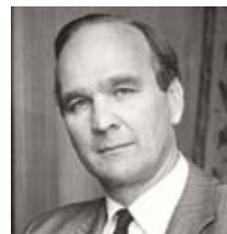


gastroenterology in Gloucester Hospital, Bedford District General Hospital, North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, and Manchester Royal Infirmary before his appointment as a consultant physician at Hope Hospital and Salford Royal Hospital in 1960. Tony was a driving force behind the Manchester-Edinburgh Society, including a term as president. After retiring in 1984 he continued to practise as a consultant clinician at St Ann's Hospice, Little Hulton, for the next two years. He leaves his wife, Olwen; three children; nine grandchildren; and one great grandchild.

**Ian Wilson**

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**Antony John Wing**



**Former consultant nephrologist Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals (b 1933; q Oxford/ St Thomas' Hospital 1958; DM, FRCP), d 13 January 2012.**

Antony John Wing ("Tony") did national service with the Royal Air Force in Aden and then was posted to RAF Halton in 1964. He was appointed consultant nephrologist at St Thomas' in 1969. His major research thereafter was in helping set up, and then chairing until 1983 the registry of renal failure patients of the European Dialysis and Transplant Association—at that time an innovative task, employing new computer technology. In 1994 he moved to St George's to help set up a unit there, and retired in 1997. He leaves his wife, Rachel; four children; and 10 grandchildren.

**John Feehally**

**John Eastwood**

**Stewart Cameron**

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