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## Brian D Hore

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Brian D Hore was born on 21 September 1937 and died on 26 July 2020. The intervening 82 years were incredibly full. He directly gave hope, and successful treatment, to thousands of patients in Manchester with alcohol dependence. At the same time, he helped move care forward in the UK through the Medical Council on Alcohol, and across the globe through the International Council on Alcohol and Addiction. All the more impressive, he managed to do this over many years while going through the trials and tribulations, ups and downs, of supporting Manchester City Football Club.

Born in Wembley, north London, Brian was an only child, or “only hope,” as his mum, Gladys, would say. He flourished even though the onset of the second world war was just around the corner. When Brian was growing up, his father, Harold, was a laboratory scientist at St George’s Hospital, when it was based at Hyde Park Corner. Brian’s parents doted on him.

He attended John Lyon School, in Harrow on the Hill, and he, and cherished his friends from there. Though admitted to an isolation hospital with typhoid for almost a year as a teenager, he went on to apply to study medicine at St Bartholomew’s Hospital. When

he announced in front of his class that he had won a place, the headmaster of John Lyon said aloud “You, Hore . . . are you sure?” He was sure and went on to be the first in his family to go to university.

He enjoyed studying and playing sport. At cricket he described how he bowled googlies, although friends described them more as “slow left arm spinners with an unusual action.” At football, he had more success. Once he even once scored five in one match, with the *Barts Journal* reporting “and Hore romped home for his fifth.”

House jobs at Barts were followed by membership of the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Later he was awarded fellowship of both colleges. Working at the Maudsley was the part of his training that thrilled him the most. It was there in the late 1960s he worked with the Camberwell Alcohol Project in south-east London, helping rehabilitate those severely affected by damaging effects of alcohol. That project was to go onto become Turning Point charity, in which he later had a major role.

He was actively involved with the Medical Council on Alcohol from its earliest days when it was formed in 1967 (then known as The Medical Council on Alcoholism). Later he would be a member of its executive, and for over a decade, chairman of its journal committee. He would go on to be awarded the council’s highest accolade and became an honorary fellow.

Brian developed a firm belief that patients with serious alcohol problems needed to choose an abstinent way of life, and that continuous support was required to achieve this. In 1971 he moved to south Manchester to set up the alcohol treatment unit at Withington Hospital, as consultant psychiatrist. His impact was so profound that when he retired many years later the patients themselves voted to name their day unit after him.

He published two books and many academic papers on the themes of developing service networks, and the importance of continuing support for patients as they came to change their lifestyle. His impact ranged from locally helping run residential accommodation for those in recovery in Manchester, to globally as a council member for many years, on the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions, for which he presented, for example, in America, what was then East Germany, Iraq, and Japan.

He was a firm believer in the value of Alcoholics Anonymous and in the importance of social support for homeless alcoholics. A committed and enthusiastic supporter of AA, he had the honour in later years of being appointed a non-alcoholic member of the general service board of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain.

As his colleague and very close friend, Bruce Ritson, said, the key thing was that “Brian never forgot the qualities of the person were still there, even if those qualities were swamped by alcoholism.”

He truly loved medicine. All of it. The patient contact, the colleagues who became friends, the process of it, the energy, and the hope it gives.

He had a wonderful life, and was very, very loved. At medical school he fell completely in love with a fellow student called, Eva. They were married in 1965. When Eva sadly later died, he was then very lucky indeed to find love a second time and married Janette in 1999.

He leaves two proud sons and three grandchildren, who miss him very, very much.

Consultant psychiatrist Withington Hospital (b 1937; q 1962; FRCP, FRCPSych), died from Parkinson’s disease on 26 July 2020