

sumed that the matter was dead, but one day about a year later a long letter appeared retracting the earlier decision and asking us to submit the paper for reconsideration, promising that it would now be refereed very quickly. This was one instance which showed how such matters were handled carefully, fairly and firmly by Batchelor.

When we started the Asian Congresses of Fluid Mechanics, I had the opportunity to mention the idea to Batchelor, and was dismayed when he said that he thought a Pacific Rim group may be a more practical proposition. However, after reports of the first Congress, held in Bangalore in 1980, trickled back to him from the participants, and in particular after he saw the proceedings of the Congress (which was handsomely reviewed by him for *JFM*), his view changed very rapidly. He gave an invited lecture in 1983 at the Second Congress in Beijing, and visited India the following year with his wife Wilma. He seemed to have enjoyed the visit very much, and spent considerable time looking at experiments in the different

laboratories and talking to people about fluid dynamics, about how to do research, about what the interesting problems were, about how IUTAM was governed and so on. When I asked him about the Euromech Colloquia he sent me the statutes for the meeting – all written down by him on one page. This provided a model for the statutes that I myself drew up thereafter for the Asian Fluid Mechanics Committee – and I must say that these brief statutes have stood the test of time and have served us very well indeed.

Batchelor set exacting standards for the quality of research in the subject, in part by being meticulous about his own work but in part also by using the influence he wielded as a very clear-headed editor. Julian Hunt, his long-time colleague at DAMTP, says that Batchelor's writing style reflected his admiration for Henry James. His philosophy at DAMTP, where he insisted that applied mathematicians should make and could learn from experiments, has changed the way that the subject has been perceived in many mathematics departments

around the world. I remember his taking visitors around with great pride to show the very interesting and not-always-so-simple experiments that had been set up in the basement of his department, and also to display the pioneering experiments that he had made himself in the use of computers for instruction in fluid dynamics or mathematics.

I cannot forget the evening spent at his home with a large number of scientists from all over the world, talking about fluid dynamics, science and his garden. He once told me that his most vivid image of India was that of its remarkable women, in their extraordinarily colourful dresses: they reminded him, he said, of an English garden in spring.

He was elected to the Royal Society in 1957, and won the Royal Medal in 1988. He was widely honoured by universities and academies elsewhere in the world as well.

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## David G. Crighton – An obituary

By a tragic combination of circumstances, David George Crighton (1942–2000), who succeeded Batchelor as the Head of the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics in 1986, passed away on 12 April this year (within weeks of his predecessor), while still holding the position. Crighton, also a distinguished fluid dynamicist who came to be well known for his work in aeroacoustics, began as a Research Assistant with Ffowcs Williams at Imperial College (where he went giving up a lucrative position he already held in a college less congenial to his research interests). In 1974, he went directly from this position to that of a Professor of Applied Mathematics at Leeds (would it be conceivable in India for a person to jump to a Professorship from a Research Assistantship?). In Cam-

bridge he became Master of Jesus College in 1997; he was elected to the Royal Society in 1993.

The Department grew under his leadership, which was in particular known for the way that he won support for the work that was being carried out by himself and by his colleagues. His extraordinary human qualities, which included an unfailing enthusiasm and the ability to talk to a variety of people, conveying to everybody a warm human appreciation, won him many friends. In Cambridge all students, but I believe foreign students in particular (not only Indian), felt very easy talking to him and therefore sought his criticism and help on a wide variety of different issues. At the time he died he was editor of the *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, having succeeded Batchelor in this position as

well. He showed great personal courage as he kept working almost till the last day of his life even though he (and everybody around him) knew that he did not have much longer to live. He was once assaulted in Brussels and as a result completely lost his hair. So when I met him in a conference soon thereafter I could not recognize him till he actually introduced himself to me once again. I remember the patient and even cheerful way he explained what had happened to him when I made a misplaced joke about his changed hair style.

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