

Goodbye, David

I've lost a long-time and dear friend.

Sadly, David Iveson of Westminster Machine Tools Ltd. in the U.K. passed away on April 9 – a day before he was to turn 75.

David and I met in the late 60s, having been introduced by my father, who had met him on earlier business trips. We became instant friends. Sometimes I'd make half a dozen trips a year to England, as I was a principal in the industrial auctioneering company, Industrial Plants-UK (IPC-UK), and each time we would meet up.

Many of you have known David or have done business with him. Like me, he spent the majority of his career specializing in used gear manufacturing equipment, especially machines built by Gleason.

Born in the North of England, David worked the coal mines as a young boy. In British society, those circumstances should have limited his growth and opportunities. But David—ambitious, smart and hard-working—never allowed his background to limit him economically or socially.

David formed Westminster Machine Tools in about 1965 and he was known worldwide for his knowledge and acumen in the gear field. He was also an expert dealer in all types of non-gear machines. David was well known and trusted by both dealers and customers alike, on several continents. His word was his bond, and his knowledge of the features and values of all types of metalworking equipment was deep. David's opinions and knowledge reflected all facets of business and life and were sought out and respected by his customers, fellow dealers and competitors. While you, our readers, may have known him and done business with him, either buying or selling machinery, David and I, and our families, have been competitors, partners and friends for nearly 45 years.

Perhaps because of his early life of poverty, David pursued with gusto the finer things in life: exotic travel, excellent food, the finest wines and champagnes, the fastest cars, the hottest clubs, etc.

When he was young, David traveled with a very fast crowd, partying with the Rolling Stones and with Margaret Trudeau, who was formerly married to the Canadian Prime Minister. Those were wild times in England, and David was one of the wild ones. I still have vivid memories of driving through central London at absurdly high speeds with David in his Jaguar XJS.

David's first and second marriages didn't work out, but with more maturity and more than a bit of luck, he met Georgina Wynyard, whom he dated for quite some time before settling down.

I spent time with David and Georgina while they were dating and I remember his excitement when each of their daughters was born. I have had the good fortune to be able to watch them grow up to be beautiful and accomplished young women.

We had the opportunity to travel extensively together, as both Westminster Machine Tools and my former company, Cadillac Machinery, were members of the European Association of



Michael and Marsha Goldstein (left) with David and Georgina Iveson (right) at Ascot Racecourse.

Machine Tool Merchants (EAMTM). Because I was on their Council for over 21 years, my wife, Marsha, and I attended almost all of the annual meetings with David and Georgina. Together, our families saw the highlights of Europe: Marbella, the Algarve of Portugal, Santa Margherita Ligure in Italy, the Canary Islands, Berlin, The Arts Hotel in Barcelona, The Isle of Jersey, Sorrento, Palma in Mallorca, Castelnuovo del Garda in Italy, Estoril in Portugal and too many others to name. David introduced Marsha and me to the pleasures of Chateau d'Yquem Sauterne, surprisingly sold by the glass at the Hotel Splendido, high on the hill overlooking Portofino, Italy. We held memorable birthday parties for Marsha at the Greek Island of Rhodes and again in Cascias, Portugal. In 2011 we were again together in Budapest. David and I were also both members of the Machinery Dealers National Association (MDNA), which brought us to conferences in Cambridge, Mass., Houston, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Orlando, Colorado Springs, New York, and too many other venues to name or remember. What glorious memories of places I visited and times I had with David and our families.

The last time both our families were together was Christmas 2012, when we all met in Paris. The seven of us had a fabulous, memorable dinner, where we drank Sauterne and Champagnes. My last visit with David was at his home this past January, where over lunch and dinner, we celebrated our friendship.

David was one of a kind, never to be replicated. He will be sorely missed, not only by myself, but by all who knew him, customer and friend alike.

My father used to tell me that after we're gone, all we leave is our reputation, and David left his as a giant legacy.

David, you did far more than most, and you did it in style. May you now rest in peace, Mate!

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