



**John Paterson**  
Memories

“We don’t meet people by accident. They are meant to cross our paths for a reason.”

It’s not very often that a company produces a book of memories about a single member of staff. But then, there are not many companies who have had someone like John Paterson working for them.

Anyone reading this book without having met John will get a true feel for how inspirational he was. It’s clear from all the memories that John had something special about him and that he made a lasting impact on all those around him. You’ll read everything here – from people who knew John for many years to those who came across him only recently.

There’s a thread running through this book – John was one of a kind. He was welcoming, open, friendly and supportive. He was funny, warm and thought nothing of taking the time to help people out. We are all the richer for having known him.

I'm sure there are many stories we could all tell about John, and his impact on our lives.

It's important for me to say that John was my friend. He gave me a lot of support and advice when I first became CEO, and I learned a huge amount from him. He was incredibly generous with his time – in fact, his days often started late because he spent time telephoning managers across the whole business, making sure they were all happy, and sorting out any issues, before he got down to his own day.

I think it will come as no surprise to say that John had a reputation for being late. He always said it was because he was the second-born twin, and that was certainly a great excuse.

In fact, he was known as 'Any Other Business' because he would always come into meetings late, and then his issues under Any Other Business would take as long as the meeting itself! I always suspected that he deliberately brought complex and difficult issues into that part of the meeting because he knew I had a flight to catch back to London from Glasgow, and it was his best chance of getting a positive decision out of me.

And he was certainly known for getting results. Previously, as director of the Glasgow depot, John was the first branch director to achieve a million pounds of net profit, and that's because he worked incredibly hard, had an immense attention to detail, ran his yard like a production line and was happy to step in to help with anything – including forklift driving when necessary.

It's customary on these occasions to say how wonderful someone was – how kind and how well-liked. In John's case, it's absolutely true. He was genuinely one of the most popular people in the business, always thinking about other people and prepared to do anything for them. I had one quite senior person say to me: *"I don't care what I do, I just want to work for John,"* and I think that says everything about the sort of man he was.

He will be missed by everyone who worked with him, including our clients and suppliers.

**Des Moore**  
TRAD Group CEO

I am proud to say that I insisted on John being given the opportunity to be the MD of THS Scotland after the sad loss of Frank. From my early encounters with John, it was obvious to me that he had the drive and ability to grow the business. He set the benchmark for all THS business units when he reached that tremendous milestone of £1million net depot profit.

I said to John at that time, *“What company car would you ideally like to have?”* He said a BMW X5. He was given the opportunity to get one as a reward for this milestone profit, but he never did – he was quite happy with what he had. Typical John, he did not want to stand out in a crowd, but he did stand out, without any accessories. His personality, his leadership, his passion for success stood out, and everyone listened to him as John always had value to add to any debate.

Of my retirement from TRAD Group, I miss my depot visits, seeing John and all the great teams, having downtime with everyone, golf at Gleneagles.

That was John’s personal company membership golf club, and he paid personally towards this membership. Let’s face it, not many MDs would do that, and it shows again what a real genuine guy John was. He will be very welcome wherever he is now.

Rest in peace John.

**Hayden Smith**  
**Founder of the TRAD Group**



**D**uring my working life I have worked with many inspirational people, but hand on heart I can't think of anyone that inspired me more than John did. I only wish I had known him for much longer.

Right from the very first meeting with John when we met up at the village hotel in Leeds to discuss the position of Depot Manager for the Leeds depot, I knew he was passionate about the company and cared immensely that the Leeds depot and the people at the branch got the right person to maintain its growth and success.

John showed me how to stay calm when things got difficult. He was always available for advice anytime of the day (once you had tracked him down that is as he was always involved helping someone!). His sense of ensuring things were done correctly, treating all people with the same respect, and engaging with everyone each and every time he visited the depot meant that everyone that knew John had an immense respect and loyalty towards him. My team at Leeds asked about John almost every week during his illness and are all deeply saddened about John's passing. They all have their own memories of a the very special man he was and he will never be forgotten.

When John announced that he was ill after a Management meeting in London, we went to the pub over the road for a wee drink. It's fair to say that one drink lead to another and, after missing several trains, everyone finally made a move. John got all the depot heads together and asked us to do him a favour: those people that were there know what that was. Those words go through my head every day. All I'll say is: John, we didn't mess it up.

You were a true giant amongst men and I will miss you with all my heart. My sincere condolences go out to Jane and all your family.

God Bless John.

**Regards Stewart Quinn**  
**TRAD UK Regional Manager**

John had many exceptional qualities – he wasn't just a good Boss he was also a good friend.

I have many great memories with John too many to mention, but thought I'd share this one as we would always laugh about it.

John and I had arranged to travel to see Bilfinger Ind. Services at the Gas Plant on the Shetland Isles where we had supplied over 7000 tonnes of equipment. We were due to fly from Glasgow to Aberdeen, then on to the Shetlands.

We arrived at Glasgow Airport car park with 10 minutes until boarding – late as usual! We dumped the car then ran to the check-in desks, where John charmed our way through and yes, we were the last two to get on the plane.

We arrived at Aberdeen Airport and checked in for the next flight. John said: *“Follow me. I've done this before, I know where I'm going.”* We sat down and waited for flight communication.

An announcement came over the tannoy: *“Please proceed to room 2 for the safety briefing.”*

*“Kev, come on in here.”*

*“John, I'm sure we're in the wrong place.”*

*“Trust me I've done it before!”*

I followed John, still convinced we were in the wrong place. There were 16 men in the room – John and I dressed smartly in shirts and trousers, and everyone else in scruffy workwear.

The safety instructor arrived and, to our amazement gave us these huge, bright yellow safety suits to wear, and we started watching a video on how to survive in case of an emergency North Sea Landing.

I whispered: *“John we are flying on a plane, not a helicopter. Are you sure this is correct?”*

*“Kev, shut-up! I'm trying to listen to the video, its important,”* he replied.

We put these huge safety suits on and looked like two overgrown fat starfish.

I remember thinking we were actually going on a helicopter – we were petrified, and reality kicked in as we tried to remember the video on how to survive in the North Sea that we had only watched five minutes ago.

It was only when we were asked to supply our North Sea Platform IDs prior to boarding that we were asked how we'd even got in, and that we were definitely in the wrong place!

After John trying to explain what had happened, we were escorted out to the correct waiting room. We got on the right plane – late again and again the last two passengers on board!

Now sat in our proper seats, John and I looked at each other and burst into laughter, which wasn't appreciated by our fellow passengers.

Great memories John, I wish I could thank you for them.

**Kevin Kenyon**  
**TRAD UK Head of National Sales**

**J**ohn – the best “Good” man. Always approachable, smiling and ready to chat.

His calm and knowledge made him a pleasure to work with at TRAD – it has been a different place without him around. It was a real honour to have known John, and it was a sad day when I heard news of his illness, and then his passing.

He will be missed by everyone that knew him.

Rest in Peace

**Terry Jones**  
**The Computer Department**



I started working with John in the summer of 2001 as a driver, after he approached me to come and work for him at TRAD. At the time, I was driving for a company that used to hire material from him at his previous company.

I always found John to be as good as his word and very honest. If he said something was going to happen, it would happen, maybe not as quick as I would have liked it to happen, but it would happen!!

John was always generous to all the staff, as he knew we would work hard for him. He will be sadly missed by me and I am sure all the rest of the staff here in Glasgow.

**Brian Fallan**  
**TRAD UK Glasgow Driver**

**J**ohn was a massive help to the depot. He was supportive, generous and would always take the time to take a call from us. We will miss his words of wisdom and understanding nature. He took the time to speak to all members of staff and treated us all with equal respect. He made all staff feel valued and appreciated.

We will truly miss him, and we appreciate all that he did for us, he will always be remembered at Andover.

Always in our thoughts.

**Adam Whatley**  
Depot Head & the team at TRAD UK Andover Depot

**E**ver since I arrived at TRAD eleven years ago, John was always there for me to offer advice either on the phone or at managers meetings. It was no surprise when he became MD. As a boss John was fantastic – you always knew exactly where you stood with him, be it good or bad, and he really knew how to treat people. He was genuine and always had time for everyone at the depots when he visited, no matter how busy he was.

I had health issues myself that I was ignoring, and it was John who eventually forced me to go to the doctors and get the help I needed – he understood, and I will be forever grateful to him for that.

It is still hard to believe he is no longer with us. He is missed by us all and will always be in our thoughts, so rest in peace John, and we will never forget that Celtic were the first British team to win the European Cup, the rest of us are just copying them.

**Steve Prestage**  
**TRAD UK Birmingham Assistant Depot Head**

John was a valuable work colleague and friend for many years, and although we worked miles apart – London to Glasgow – he was always very helpful with advice to everyone, and helpful in any way. It was clear he had huge presence and character and was a much-loved person in the business.

When John became MD and my boss he was very humble in his promotion, but it was clear he demanded perfection and 100% from his team and he got this from all with total respect. He worked tirelessly and gave you the support, help and respect you needed – something I thrived upon personally.

John was challenging and generally always right and had that infectious way to motivate and put smiles on hard working faces. I personally owe so much of my own success to John. He taught me so many good ways for dealing with difficult situations, and he had time for everyone. All my team in London were surprised and grateful how, on his visits, he had time to have a general chat with them about their lives – managers, sales staff, admin, yard and drivers. He gave and showed them all respect, which they loved – it brought the TRAD team closer together, something which was clever, but was actually just John the way he was, it was natural for him.

Sometimes I wished he would not talk to them all, as dropping him at the airport was always a rush, arriving 20 minutes before the flight. Sometimes he just caught the flight, sometimes not!

When John was announced his illness, it was devastating news for me and all at TRAD, but he just wanted us all to continue working not worrying – he was always thinking of others and not himself. I was asked to take some responsibilities whilst he was off, which was very daunting, but he was so calm and provided me with such a great platform and confidence, which is something I will never forget. And when the pressure was on, he said: *“Don’t f\*\*k it up!”* – he knew exactly what he was saying and the effect it would have. I hear those words every day and they will stay with me forever.

During his treatment, we spoke a few times and generally he wanted to know about work and offer advice. My challenge was to get off the subject of work, and discuss football, weather, news etc.

Miss him? Yes. Forget him? No. He will be up there, still wearing his TRAD cap.

**Colin Dobson**  
TRAD UK Managing Director

I was truly devastated to hear the news of John's passing. He was a such fantastic bloke, and someone who was always great with me over the years. Although I never had the chance to work with John directly, whenever our paths crossed he was always interested to know how things were going, and showed genuine interest. I know everyone in my family who knew and worked with John classed him more as a friend than a colleague. He left a massive impression on us all over the years and will be sadly missed.

One of my favourite memories with John was the time I got to spend playing golf with him at Gleneagles. He invited us up as a thank you to Gareth who was leaving the business at the time. Gareth was desperate to play the course and I know that gesture meant a lot to him, and I was really grateful to be asked as well. We had a fantastic round of golf, and John and Davy gave us the guided tour of Glasgow's bars afterwards! He refused to let us spend any money, and was always quick to ensure our glasses were never empty. It was a great weekend and something we both will never forget.

RIP John.

**Alex Ackers**  
TRAD UK Regional Manager



I had worked with John at our previous company for around four years, as we were the two salesman for our branches. I had a good relationship with him, although this was always pushed to the limit when you had arranged a site visit and he was late as usual! However, that was the way he was, always managing to just about get there on time.

I remember one time we were flying to London for one of the TRAD Christmas parties. I told him the flight was at 10am so we had to be there at 8.30am but, as usual, John shows up at 9.10am rushing about and wondering what all the fuss is for. Then I told him the flight wasn't until 11am and we just wanted to make sure he was on time, so he didn't speak to me all weekend!!

This was the John we all knew and loved. Although he could be on time on occasions, in fact the only times he made it on time was for golf at his favourite place Gleneagles.

John, you will be sorely missed by all the staff and clients around the country, but especially here in Glasgow where you moulded us into the people we all are today. I will always be eternally grateful for everything you did for me and my family over the years, and I am sure I will not be alone in saying that.

R.I.P. John.

**Davy Walls**  
**TRAD UK Glasgow Depot Head**



**W**as a pleasure to have known John. Whenever he came to the Barking depot, he always had a smile on his face and would have time for all the staff. John will be sorely missed.

**Julian Langenhan**  
TRAD UK Barking Depot Manager

**W**henver John came to Barking, he would not just stay in the office. He would make time to see us guys in the yard and see how we were. This meant a lot to me and deeply sad to hear of his passing.

**Kirham Williamson**  
TRAD UK Barking Yard Chargehand

**N**ever a dull day when John visited the Barking depot. Always had a funny story to tell, went out of his way to have a chat to everyone. John and Alan Slater were like a comedy act – Alan always panicking they were going to miss their flight and John would be in no rush at all!

**Heidi Taylor**  
TRAD UK Barking Sales Support

**I**t was nice to know John. He was a polite person and always said hello.

He will be missed.

**Chris Nelson**  
TRAD UK Barking Yard Operative



**I**SAIAH 57: 1- 2 The righteous perisheth and no man layeth it to heart and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from evil to come. He shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, each, one walking in his uprightness.”

**Edward Asiedu**  
TRAD UK Barking Yard Operative

**I**would just like to say I did not know John, but certainly would have liked to. All the kind words said about him show the affection, and how highly regarded John was as a person and a leader. My thoughts are with his family and friends.  
Sent with my best wishes.

**Adrian Miles**  
TRAD UK Andover Sales Representative

**J**ohn was one of the nicest and kindest men I have ever met, and he wasn't just a work colleague but a great friend too, who I will miss greatly.

It was known throughout our team that John was my favourite Director. Neil Garner (TRAD Scaffolding MD at the time) would always tease me and say John could do no wrong in my eyes.

I always teased Neil back by telling him he should take lessons from John on how to improve his communication skills with his staff. John seldom had any HR issues at his depots because he genuinely cared about his people, and consequently he was so well liked and respected. In my 20 years of service, I never heard anyone ever say a bad word about John.

I remember when we went to Stockport on business, and I booked my room to add the Sunday night too as I didn't want to drive up on the Monday morning. John found out and turned up both Sundays to have dinner with me in the evening, so I wasn't on my own. We had some lovely chats about our families and John and Jane's plans for their new house, which he was really excited about. I just knew it would end up being the perfect home as he was such a perfectionist!

After the Stockport visit, I headed back to London and John headed back home to Glasgow but unfortunately, I was involved in a major vehicle accident with a lorry on the drive home, resulting in my car being written-off, and John helped make sure I got home safely.

After that event we spoke most days and my friendship with John grew stronger.

The week after the accident our Head Office moved to Bromley in Kent and John checked on me nearly every day as he knew how hard it was for me to continue to drive so soon after my accident. John's support really got me through one of the toughest periods of my life and I never really got a chance to thank him and tell him how much he helped me through it but hopefully he knew.

Life at TRAD will never be the same without John, he will be remembered dearly by all that knew him.

**Ros Howe**  
**TRAD Group Human Resources Director**

I knew John for over 23 years and met him when I worked for another scaffolding firm, where the standing joke was that I would charge him double!

I must have done something right though, as I received a call from John all those years ago to come for an interview, then was asked to work for TRAD. I joined the TRAD family and never looked back, thanks to John.

When I began the journey with TRAD, I was obviously a bit younger. I could be quite a fidget and had a habit of not listening. John was trying to explain some admin bits and pieces and while he was doing so, I was playing nervously with a bottle of Tip-ex.

Those of us who knew John well, knew he had a liking for the best of clothes, always names and, on this occasion, he had on a fancy, new Hugo Boss suit. The top flew off the Tip-ex bottle and the contents of the whole bottle went all over him, ruining the suit. I quickly exited the room!

John then tried to remove the Tip-ex with paint thinners and burnt his leg. Not my best day.

I worked alongside John for over 20 years, and he was a great boss and an even better friend. He was the best friend anybody could wish for – I miss him dearly and I always will.

**Mags Morrison**



Where do I begin? I started working with John 21 years ago, and pretty much from the start of our working relationship, I knew he was a man who was well respected by all our clients.

I have many great memories, from him doing a little ‘cough’ when he wanted me to ask if he wanted a tea, to him shouting to me downstairs, *“It’s like the Sahara in here!”* because I hadn’t offered him a tea in a while. His all-time favourite was shouting *“Nat!”* and if I never answered quickly enough, he would gradually shout it louder each time, until I answered.

One of my funniest memories always takes me back to one afternoon when his printer was playing up. He was fast losing his patience with it, and shouted through to me, *“Nat, order me a new printer!!”* Then he proceeded to open the window and threw it out! I hasten to add, the skip was right beneath his window – there was no way he’d make a mess of our tidy yard!

John was there for me for all the highs and lows in my life, from losing my Dad, to being at my wedding and meeting my daughter when she was just one week old. John wasn’t just my boss, he was a great friend, someone I could turn to for advice and would always be at the other end of the phone. He will be always the type of man I hold in a very high regard.



**Natalee Wilkie**  
TRAD UK Glasgow Office Supervisor

**I** first met JP back in the 1980s when he was a sales rep for Generation, working along with Frank Gannon. They were a formidable team together and served the industry in Scotland really well.

Over the years, throughout his progression, we formed a bond as friends enjoying many days golfing, watching Scotland games and of course nights out in Glasgow for a drink or two.

JP was always destined for the top and it was great to see him rise and become Managing Director of TRAD Hire and Sales, but the one thing that never changed was him. He was always at the end of the phone when you needed to talk to him and always went out of the way to sort any issue you called him with relating to stock.

I can't imagine what John has gone through over the last few years and the fight that he put up to try and beat his illness, but on the many times I spoke with him during it he never complained once even at the hardest moment. I think this says all that needs to be said about the man JP was.

He will be sadly missed and will be a massive loss to the scaffolding industry UK-wide and by all who knew and loved him.

Robert Aitken and all at RDA Scaffolding Limited.

**Robert Aitken**

What can I say about John? There are so many stories and anecdotes I can tell of my life working alongside him, but there is one which really sticks in my mind....

I was not long into my career with TRAD, and was still a green-behind-the-ears salesman. My day was planned and was visiting clients in the Scottish Borders when I received some unfavourable news about a site. After deliberating what course of action to take, I decided to ‘take the bull by the horns’ and make that two-hour journey back to the depot, to hold my hands up and to speak to John.

I knocked on John’s door and asked if he had five minutes to discuss something. He obviously realised there was something amiss, as he had not expected to see me that day. I explained what had happened and what the implications were for us and, although John was quite rightly annoyed, he never once blamed me for what was quite clearly my mistake. In fact, the way he spoke and what he said will forever stick with me. “*Alan, what are WE going to do about this, let’s think about how WE solve this.*” That was John, we were part of a team, we learn by our mistakes and help each other.

John was not just a boss, he was much more than that, he was a leader, one you would follow anywhere, he was an absolutely extraordinary man and I loved him for it. He was selfless and always put others first, he had this knack of making everyone want to pull in the same direction, he made you want to work incredibly hard, not by putting pressure on you to do so, but because you simply didn’t want to let him down in any way, and you enjoyed it while you did it.

On a recent visit to the Stockport depot, I had the pleasure (and it was a real pleasure) of performing a series of PEP Talks with some of the yard staff, with one of the conversations really striking home and resonating with me.

Once I had explained what the initiative was about, what the aims were, what we want to achieve and the reasons why, I was asked, “*And how are you, how are you feeling?*” The member of staff had recognised that, due to my long relationship with John, I might need to talk.

I was told that in part, one of the reasons that John would keep me waiting was that he would be in the yard or the office, performing his own PEP Talks. Engaging with the staff, finding out how they were, how their families were. Did they need anything? Did they need help? Was there anything he could do to help? Always letting them know his door was open if they wanted to speak. *“What you have done is made what John already did formal.”*

It just showed what kind of man he was, always making sure the staff were ok, and letting them know he was there for them. John has had such a profound influence on my life, as my boss, my leader, my mentor and, most importantly, as my friend. He has helped me become the person I am today, and I will be forever thankful for his guidance, influence and friendship. I am proud to have known him and will miss him immensely.

**Alan Slater**

**TRAD UK Head of Technical & Product Support**



Words cannot convey how much I miss the chap. Travelling to the funeral gave me time to reflect on the good times. And not a single bad one.

One of my fondest memories of John was on a damp September morning in 2014. I answered a call with my normal greeting only to be met with:

*“What do you call a man wearing paper trousers?”* Well, he was laughing so much the punch line took a while to come but I waited and waited.

*“Russell!!”* boomed down the phone.

He erupted into howls of laughter. Never laugh at your own jokes, I said to him, but he was laughing so much nothing could dampen his enthusiasm.

From that day forth every single call John would start with the joke and wait for my reply, *“Russell!!”* We loved it.

I then decided to congratulate him on such an amazing repertoire of jokes.

I asked a tailor to make a set of pyjamas with newspaper print on them. Jane gave me John’s size and just before the annual Christmas holiday departure from the office, he opened his present.

He called me straight away to tell me he was wearing his new set of clothes followed by howling laughter. He kept them and Jane, I know you keep them safe.

To a man that can deliver a joke and take one. I miss him as you know, but I have such great memories.

**Russell Holley**  
ACW



I have known John for over 30 years, playing and watching football together, enjoying a beer now and again with him and, on occasion, a few too many Jack Daniels as well

John first asked me if I wanted some temporary work at a new company he was helping to set up in early 2000 – and here I am now, 21 years later, still working with TRAD at the Glasgow branch.

I will definitely miss the stocktakes, trying to guess where he would want to store stock in the yard, knowing that if we put it a certain area, he would want it somewhere else. So we played a little game: the fun would be putting it somewhere we didn't want it, so that he would tell us to put it somewhere else, which is where we really wanted it anyway.

John always delivered what he promised, and his word was his bond. He was “Old School” – once you agreed and shook hands it was done. He never forgot where he came from, where his roots were, and he always treated people the way he would want to be treated, while he never forgot the people who helped him get to where he was in the business.

**Andy Perrie**  
**TRAD UK Glasgow Yard Manager**

**J**ohn brought me to TRAD after we worked together at Generation for a few years, with the promise of starting a new company that would be the best in the business. He wasn't kidding! It has proved to be a huge success with John fronting the branch for at least 15 years and, although it has been very stressful at times, it has been a pleasure working with him. Even though we all could have our disagreements with one another, everything was always sorted out, but usually the way he wanted it to be sorted!!

**Jim O'Neill**  
TRAD UK Glasgow Yard Foreman

**I** first met John just after I attended an interview with Davy and Alan for a Yard Operative job with TRAD in 2014. My concern at the interview was that after just being made redundant, and not being the youngest of the applicants, I would be overlooked. However, John made me feel very welcome. He told me that TRAD was looking for people that can do the job, and it wasn't dependant on what age people were. This has definitely been proved correct, as after a few years I decided to go for my HGV Licence and, after passing the test, I was given the opportunity of a driving job within the company, which is what I have done for the last five years.

Although I only knew him for around eight years, I always found John was a great person to deal with. He had always been kind and concerned about my wife when she was receiving treatment for her cancer. Bearing in mind what he was going through at the same time, it must have made it really difficult for him, but he never mentioned to me how he was doing, he only asked about and had interest in how my wife was.

**Dom Ryan**  
**TRAD UK Glasgow Driver**

**S**uch a genuine lovely man whose loss will leave a large hole in many lives.

Was always a pleasure to have him visit the depot, so sad we won't see his happy face again.

**Rachel Midgley**  
**TRAD UK Leeds Senior Administrator**

**W**ith being fairly new to the TRAD business I didn't have too many opportunities to meet John. However, the few times I did, I can totally understand why he was liked by so many across the business. We quickly found that we had a common interest in golf, with John offering me a round with him at Gleneagles. Sadly, that day didn't arrive, and no betting money changed hands, but from that one conversation and offer on our first meet I can see he was truly a nice person. I'd like to pass on my sincere condolences to all John's family.

**Darren Cooper**  
**TRAD UK Birmingham Depot Head**

**I** used to pick John up and return him to City Airport when he would have meetings in our Bow yard. We always had a good chat about life in general as well as work.

I will miss John's easy going personality and his happy cheerful self – a great man lost too early.

My sincere condolences to all John's family and friends.

**Dickie Hackett**  
**TRAD Co General Manager**

**J**ohn Paterson, An absolute gem of a boss and the kind of human being that doesn't always cross your path in life. Kind, considerate, thoughtful, generous and always full of help and advice, regardless of how busy he may have been. A true gentleman that I or anyone who worked with or knew him will miss massively.

**Mike Hollingworth**  
**TRAD UK Manchester Depot Head**

**W**here do I start? I was extremely lucky to experience working with John. A boss that was so kind, considerate, always thought about EVERYBODY, and never left anyone out. He used to travel to Stockport on a regular basis and he always brought a smile and usually an exceptionally long story about his house (about what had gone wrong next, from originally only needing a bit of decorating!). He liked to talk and tell you lots of stories and left us panicking at the end of the day because we had lots of work to catch up on! He also liked a good old moan but was always everyone's friend. The way John treated everybody meant he got the respect and loyalty he deserved. John did an incredible job of running the Glasgow depot – they were like his family. He was the perfect person for that role as he was well liked throughout the whole of TRAD. He always had the time to talk to everyone no matter how much work he had to do, his staff always came first.

John seemed to be very much a family person – he talked about Jane and his family in such a lovely way. Sending Jane and the family lots of love at this extremely difficult time. We will all miss John so much but thankfully we also all have so many nice memories to remember him by.

**Gemma Ackers**  
TRAD UK Quality Assurance & Admin

I didn't know John as well as others, but I have heard that he was often late! But invariably this was due to him helping out others in similar ways. John was always trying to get so much done in his life, and I can't remember anyone ever complaining or having a bad word to say about him, so that says a lot about John and how well he was loved.

My memories of John are from meeting him occasionally at work meetings, at the Stockport depot, or black-tie social events on behalf of TRAD (when we also met up with the lovely Jane). He always left a strong impression and was a delight to be with, and always very thoughtful.

One of my favourite memories was when I was working out of Stockport for a few days, and Jim and I shared a curry and a few beers with John at the Bredbury Hotel one evening. It was just lovely listening to the stories, and to John discussing his plans for improving his and Jane's home. He was a larger than life person, and just such a nice man. Kindness is so underrated, but I think it's the greatest quality of all and John had this in abundance and will be sorely missed.

Sending all my love to John's family, friends and colleagues and hoping these collective memories reawaken forgotten memories within us all.

**Steve Kearney**  
**TRAD Group Safety and Quality Assurance Director**

**I** only met John on a couple of occasions, but spoke to him a few times over the phone. He was always friendly, funny and very helpful with any queries I had. He will be sadly missed by us all. I lost my husband two years ago – the support from Des, Debbie and all of my TRAD workmates helped me so much to get through the most difficult time of my life. I am certain the same support will be given to John's dear family. I wish you all my deepest sympathy, God Bless you all and God Bless Him.

**Annie Burns**  
**TRAD Co Senior Surveyor**



**O**n the rare occasion we crossed paths, John was a very warm, friendly and helpful man in any way he could to me. A great loss, especially to his family and friends.

My love and thoughts are with you.

**Paddy Ryan**  
**TRAD Co Transport Logistic Manager**

I always saw John and Jane at the NASC events each year. Des and I were never on their table, but we always ended up on the dance floor together. John was always great fun – his dancing was a bit dodgy, but I can forgive him for that!

At the end of the evening – a bit Brahms and Liszt – we would all hit the bar until the early hours and put the world to rights. I'd give John a hard time, as I couldn't understand why he and Jane were not married! Poor John. Much to my delight, John eventually married the lovely Jane – what a great way to have the last word and shut me up!

**Debbie Moore**



We have been overwhelmed with memories of John, and it's fair to say that we simply can't overestimate the impact he had on the business and the people who worked with him. Reflecting on all these memories reminds us how lucky we were to know John, and how we will always carry a bit of his work ethic, attitude and kindness in our hearts – passing it on to others to keep his legacy alive.



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