



Ian Jones

16th June 1963 – 28th November 2020

Ian Geoffrey Jones was born in Leicester, on 16th June 1963 to parents Geoff and Joan. Ian had a very happy childhood with his brother Mark in a close and loving family. Ian was from farming stock and he had many tales of mis-spent summers on the farm and this was no doubt his introduction to hunting, shooting and fishing. Riding shotgun on the harvester with rabbits running in all directions honed his considerable skills with the “Bang Stick”. During his time on the farm also led to an accident where he fell out of a tree which you might not think is particularly unusual but Ian did it in style, nearly impaling himself on the fence below and spending several weeks in hospital and acquiring some medical “ironmongery” in the process. Ian enjoyed fishing, particularly for Carp as a teenager. He and his brother always took their fishing rods on family camping holidays to North Wales and Scotland and Ian’s love of the natural world remained a passion throughout his life.

Ian enjoyed school, was a good student and through his family’s farming background always adopted a practical “hands on” approach to life. At 16 because of his interest in engineering and eagerness to enter the workplace Ian applied for an Apprenticeship with a local conveyor company in Leicester. As part of his training, Ian attended Leicester Polytechnic where he studied an HNC in mechanical engineering and excelled in his studies and attained “Apprentice of the Year” through his creative and problem solving skills.

On completion of his training in 1984, Ian joined Evans Lifts as a draughtman and following the acquisition of Evans by Otis Elevator, Ian continued to expand his engineering expertise and knowledge. Through his diligent nature and extensive technical knowledge, Ian’s career at Otis progressed rapidly with him becoming the company Applications Engineer in 2000. In 2008, Ian’s career transitioned to him leading Codes and Standards which through his expertise and detailed knowledge of this subject culminated in his most recent role as Director of Codes and Standards for the Otis EMEA Region.

Ian was extremely good at problem solving and created a broad reputation for his integrity and dedication. He developed an expertise to negotiate and a detailed ability to “dot the i’s and cross the t’s” better than most. Throughout his career he travelled the globe which gave him great insight into different cultures and extend his understanding of the world.

In parallel to his work at Otis, Ian was a member of LEIA, and with the British Standards Institute for 26 years which he Chaired for the past 12 years with distinction. Ian’s integrity, hard work and leadership skills placed him as Chairman of many UK, European and International Standardisation committees. His leadership of the European LG1 group and personal contribution was instrumental in the finalization of the current ISO Lift Standards

which bring considerable improvements in terms of building accessibility and levels of safety for passengers and service technicians.

Ian's continued desire to improve Lift Safety, Performance and Compliance led his personal mission to bring alignment between ISO Standards and the Lifts Codes in the USA and China. Dave Ralphs, former Engineering Director for Otis Limited, recalled discussions with Ian, where Ian explained his plans for world "domination" in the codes and standards arena. A plan which Ian most recently accomplished with the complete re write of the EN81-58 series or as Dave named it "IAN-81".

Ian again used his humility, knowledge and ability to work with disparate groups to build a more common approach and bring important similarity to standards across geographical boundaries, making lifts safer and providing immeasurable benefits to the industry overall.

One of his colleagues stated Ian had "a talent for applying rationale to the impossible".

Ian's pivotal role in improving standards led to him being awarded in 2014 the first of BSI's International Standard Makers annual award in recognition of his valued contribution.

Ian contributed so much and had many qualities based upon the principles and values that guided his life - caring, generous and hardworking with a very dry sense of humour.

He had a strength of character not seen in many people, as Ian was particularly willing to stand up for others and find ways to help those that cannot do it for themselves. His colleagues and friends cited many examples of where Ian took time to recognise or help them. Acting as an unofficial mentor to many, Ian was an inspiration and shared his knowledge openly, provided support and reassured those around him. He was selfless in his nature, goal focussed and ensured he always did the right thing, not allowing for his personal or corporate views cloud his judgement or influence his role on the various positions he held within the Code working groups and committees. He inspired others to do better, not to be influenced or distracted by bad individuals and to remain focused.

Ian remained very close to his family and when his father passed away 20 years ago, Ian made the decision to remain at home to look after his mother Joan, to whom he was devoted and did a great job over the years in supporting and caring for her as she got older.

Fishing remained a pastime Ian enjoyed throughout his life as a means of relaxation and immersing himself in the countryside, a joint passion he shared with his brother Mark which although being very competitive sometimes, was all part of the fun. Mark recalled what he missed most about being with Ian was "Sharing very lovely times trout fishing. We both had very stressful jobs and Ian found a place in the middle of nowhere, full of wonderful nature that he shared with me and I will be forever grateful for those moments when it was just him and me in the world. We blended in with the world for a while and the world seemed okay".

With this love of the outside world, Ian spent many holidays and personal time studying wildlife, gaining a vast expertise of ornithology. Ian was well known in the bird watching world with some stunning finds behind his name. This combined with his photographic skills saw him contribute to many publications and be recognised across the UK and Ireland. As a highly talented and extensive photographer, Ian captured thousands of images of birds, butterflies and flora. Ian appreciated the natural world and began to understand the beauty of nature and how we fit into the planet's cycle of life. His wish on retirement was to spend more time on the south west coast of Ireland, a location where he spent many enjoyable holidays.



Ian always invested time, energy, and determination into everything he did with a desire to meet his exacting personal standards. His gun collection was considerable and varied and he had a rare talent for maintaining and honing the performance of rifles, air guns and the like with perhaps with more than the occasional “mishap” in the garage. His knowledge of guns of all types and ages was extensive and he would regularly acquire another piece only to have to relinquish one to stay inside his licences. A missed shot is a wasted shot he’d say and he retold a story when he was on a field shoot and someone asked his gillie why Ian’s second gun was not readied. “He doesn’t seem to need a third shot” was the reply.

The fascination for engineering and craftsmanship which Ian experienced at a young age developed into a love for collecting antique writing pens of which he amassed hundreds of fine examples.

During 2020 after Ian had received his diagnosis, he put himself through Chemotherapy not for himself but for those around him. He knew his treatment was not a cure but just a small extension, giving him time he could share some extra special moments with his close family. He bore the illness bravely, not expecting sympathy or pity from anyone and keeping his dignity and love for those around him particularly his mother until the end. Although Ian knew he had very little time remaining, he continued to immerse himself in his work, until he was unable to get out of bed. He remained true to who he was - doing all he could to support those around him and his colleagues.

At Ian’s funeral last month, a song was chosen by his brother Mark and his mother Joan which had a special meaning. One of Ian’s favourite bands was Counting Crows and the choice of song was derived from when Ian was sat in a bar in Milan after a hard day of business meetings and recognised the band doing an impromptu gig in the square. Ian asked the bartender to send out some beers to the band. They thanked him by asking him what track they could play for him and I’m sure those who knew Ian can envision the broad smile he would have had when he playfully requested Mr. Jones!!

Ian was a kind, honest, hardworking, unassuming man where nothing in helping others was too much trouble for him. He held very important roles with the gravitas of someone who really knew their subject matter and with the grace and personality to communicate openly with everyone.

Ian Jones will remain a name which commands so much respect and gratitude from an entire industry, and that has benefited considerably from his immense contribution and influence.

Ian will be sadly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.