

# Dr Henry Francis Valentine Riddle

***GP, Regional Medical Officer and Director of Occupational Medicine (b 1928; q Liverpool 1959), died 17th September 2017***

Henry Francis Valentine Riddle (Val) was born in March 1928 in Galashiels. Following National Service in the Royal Navy 1946-48, he studied at Liverpool University obtaining a BSc in Biochemistry in 1951 and in Physiology in 1952. He completed his PhD Thesis in 1957, ('the respiratory muscles, their function and integration') and followed this with MB ChB in 1959.

After marrying Pam in Liverpool in 1956, he moved to Dysart in Fife as a GP with specialist interests including dermatology and ophthalmology. He became principal 1962-74 and achieved MRCP in 1967.

His ongoing thirst for academia continued when he obtained a grant from the Scottish Health Department to investigate respiratory illness which he had noted in patients working in the local maltings. He completed his MD thesis in 1970, 'Allergic Alveolitis and respiratory disease among malt-workers', which subsequently became known as 'malt-workers lung'.

In 1975 he moved to Edinburgh where he worked as Senior Regional Medical Officer in the Civil Service Medical Advisory Department. During this time he completed several reviews of the causes of ill-health in the workplace including a tour of North America to study the effects of alcoholism and also several studies on industrial causes of Vibration-induced White Finger.

Finally he was appointed the first Director of Occupational Medicine for Scotland 1988-1993 (during which time he achieved FFOM from RCP).

To be thrice a 'doctor' demonstrates his huge drive and energy, however, he was also a kind and conscientious clinician, respected by colleagues and adored by his patients.

He married Ann in Edinburgh in 1984 since when he enjoyed many happy years living in Earlsferry. His hobbies including water-colour painting, golf, skiing, travel and computing, most of which he continued throughout his retirement when he also became a certified scuba diver and kept the books for the Fife Fine Art Society. In his later years, he suffered some inevitable health challenges which kept him off the golf links, yet he never lost his sense of fun as a raconteur and bon viveur.

He died suddenly on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017 from complications following day-case surgery.

He was a devoted husband, loving father, very proud grandfather and doting dog owner who is survived by his wife Ann, his four children (from his first marriage) Bill, Tim, Gus and Pippa, his eight grandchildren and his much loved dog Boris.

Publications:

- Muscular Imbalance in Causation of Scoliosis; Riddle HFV, Roaf R, Lancet 1954
- Allergic Alveolitis in a malt-worker; Riddle HFV, Grant IWD, Thorax: 22, 478; 1967
- Allergic Alveolitis in Scottish Maltworkers; Riddle et al, Thorax, 23, 271;1968
- Allergic Alveolitis in maltworkers. A clinical, mycological and immunological review; Channell S, Riddle HFV, 1969, Quart J Med, 36, 351
- Prevalence of Respiratory Symptoms and sensitisation by mould antigens among malt-workers; Riddle HFV, BritJIndust Med, 1974, 31, 31
- Thoughts on Sickness Absence 1977; Report to Civil Service.
- Management of Alcoholism at work in North America; 1979; Report to Civil Service
- Vibration Induced White Finger among chain sawyers 9years after the introduction of anti-vibration measures. Riddle and Taylor W. 1982. Report to Civil Service
- Vibration Effects on hand and arm in industry, BrammerAJ, TaylorW, Riddle HFV, Published John Wiley and Sons

Memberships:

Society Occupational Medicine

Thorax Society

Medical Council on Alcoholism

Hon Sec BMA Fife Branch 1966-70

Hon Sec and Deputy Chairman Fife Local Medical Committee 1966-74

Fife Executive Council 1966-74

Scottish GMC - Fife representative 1967-74

Professional Advisory Committee, Scottish Council on Alcoholism 1979-85

Dr Pippa Riddle  
Daughter