



### Bob Price – Obituary

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Bob Price, our good friend and cornerstone of the SCKPA for 37 years.

We will remember Bob for his dedication to helping kidney patients, his compassion, his sense of humour and his calmness in dealing with whatever came his way.

Bob first went on dialysis in 1981 and remained on dialysis under the care of the Churchill Renal Unit for the next 40 years. It was through the renal unit that Bob met Christine, a dialysis nurse at the time, to whom he has been happily married since 1984.

Bob was never daunted by his many years on dialysis and he continued to lead a full life. He and Christine enjoyed their holidays abroad, visiting more than 14 countries where he would dialyse in local renal units.

It is for his long and devoted service to the SCKPA that most of us will remember and be so grateful to Bob. He volunteered to take over as Chairman at his very first meeting in 1984 and he has remained on the SCKPA committee for all 37 years since then. In that time he has served as SCKPA Chairman, as NKF representative and committee member, and latterly for 23 years as SCKPA Treasurer.

We will all miss Bob and we will treasure the pleasure and privilege of knowing him, working with him and having him as a friend.

From his friends and colleagues in the Six Counties Kidney Patients Association.



Bob Price

Bob was one of the first people I met when I started dialysis in 1982, a year after him. It wasn't long before I then started home dialysis and I know at some point Bob did too!

Over the years we would often bump into each other, whether it be in the waiting room at the clinic, the annual AGM or other events to do with the Kidney Association. One thing was certain, we had a running joke, we were both always glad to see one another and pleased to see we were both still alive and kicking! It always gave us both a sense of relief!

We both started dialysis within a year of each other and the years of dialysis went on! After 24 years I finally had my transplant, leaving Bob to carry on dialyzing and recently reaching that golden milestone of 40 years. Unbelievable!

If dialysis was an Olympic sport Bob would have been awarded the gold medal! Of course, whenever we did meet up we did what all patients do, we compared aches and pains, compared diets and told each other about the naughty things we were eating and drinking, promising not to tell on each other!

Being a children's entertainer (now retired) Bob would often ask me for tips on how to control groups of children and how to keep them entertained. I like to think he used some of my tips as he managed his Sunday school children. I'm going to miss my friend, Bob so much. He was such a brave, resilient and kind person, not to mention a friendly gentle giant and that's how I will always remember him.

Terry Sopp



Robert Paul Price 1958-2022

We write this tribute to Bob, as three of the consultants who shared his care for 33 years of the 40 that he was on haemodialysis. Actually, we shared it with him and Chris(tine), for he and she really did most of it.

Bob was first a patient of the Kidney Unit in 1980. His kidney disease had been discovered a year previously. Because he had renal failure he became a patient of Dr Des Oliver the founder of the Unit. Bob was working for the Post Office and was reluctant to start haemodialysis. In 1981 I, CGW, was the registrar and managed to persuade him to put it off no longer. Within 5 months he had mastered home haemodialysis. He had one renal transplant which never worked, and so embarked on a lifetime of home treatment. He was a kidney patient for 2/3rds of his life. Dialysis can do only so much to mitigate the effects of renal failure and there are many things it cannot do. The complications are multiple and varied. He suffered most of them, and we all admired his stoicism. He had an avoidable complication of surgery for which he would have been entitled to compensation. After receiving a full explanation and apology he was told that he should consider applying and we his doctors would not

be offended. He decided immediately that he would not, saying that any such award would be at the expense of the NHS. That rare attitude was “a measure of the man.”

He had old fashioned access – a Scribner shunt which kept blocking. We spent hours unblocking it and fixing it. He and we would chat away while we worked as fast as we could before the local anaesthetic wore off. His parathyroid glands went rogue and had to be removed. He accumulated aluminium which was leached out. He laid down amyloid in his joints and wrists and had lots of surgery. He was one of the first Oxford patients to benefit from erythropoietin for the anaemia that all kidney patients suffer from.

He took a real interest in dialysis and volunteered for clinical research. He asked all the right questions and would shake his head when we answered. I was never sure when it was agreement or when it was a little scepticism.

He served the Kidney Patients Associations nationally and locally and was an advocate for patient welfare. He contributed to VIVA and I used to enjoy his reviews of films – one thin silver lining to the need to be still for 4 hours three times a week in a dialysis chair perhaps?

He bravely took foreign holidays sampling European dialysis units and sharing his adventures with us. He would be cross if Brexit limited this little perk of being part of the EU.

The dedication that he and Chris had for one another was we believe a major factor in his successful treatment for forty years. They met in the dialysis unit – three four hour dates a week! And now we have internet dating. When we saw her in the corridor she always got her question in first, “How are you?” Allie Thornley recalls as a young nurse being taught proper patient-centred care by Chris. In 2021, during the pandemic, extravagant boxes of Hotel Chocolat chocolates appeared. It was the 40th anniversary of Dialysis Day one. There was a simple card of thanks from Chris and Bob. We were very touched to be included in the celebrations.

He died not of renal failure but another disease altogether, peacefully at a time of his own choosing.

We too will miss him. He was living proof of how right those early pioneers of dialysis were to persuade the NHS to invest in the service and allow young people to have a chance of a valuable life.

Christopher Winearls

Christopher Pugh

Ben Storey