

# Association Award

## Mr Archie Naughton



You would be right in thinking that we have honoured Archie Naughton before: an Anniversary Medal 2016 in recognition of his significant services to the Association of Anaesthetists. At that time, President Andrew Hartle eloquently summarised Archie's contributions to the Association of Anaesthetists and anaesthesia in his patient liaison and lay roles. Since then, Archie has further developed his role in the Association.

Having decided that the Association might benefit from fresh *critical friend* eyes and ears, Archie planned to move on but the Board persuaded him to stay for a short while longer (two years) and to facilitate the recruitment and induction of his successor. And that he has done.

With his aviation background, his attention to detail, his careful and perceptive preparation, Archie has supported the members' interests in the many and varied activities of the Association and Foundation from safety and standards to international relations and heritage. You can imagine Archie's enjoyment of the new CRM and website project, in this instance CRM meaning Customer Relations Management system (database) and, of particular note in the last two years, his involvement in the group rebranding the Association. All these activities are high-stakes missions for any organisation and having Archie's wise counsel and observation has been invaluable.

At times when the Board discussion may have risked becoming circular, Archie has offered the view from *outside* providing essential clarity of thought which has helped us move towards a consensus conclusion. Having said that, Archie recognises the importance of challenge and has never shied from asking the elephant-in-the-room questions or stating the blindingly obvious. Many will remember his article 'It's flying Jim, but not as we know it' on non-physician anaesthesia in *Anaesthesia News* [1]. Taken in the spirit as intended, the simple analogy exercised all the issues relating to this controversial topic encouraging thought and perhaps a making up of minds. At all times Archie has stated his conflicts and interests and he has been quick to recognise where our membership organisation might be heading into turbulence. He has actively encouraged open debate and valued the variety of opinion.

On a personal level Archie has made it his job to learn about his colleagues, the members of the Board and the staff at 21 Portland Place. He displays a genuine interest in their wellbeing and progress offering support, wisdom, the value of his incisive perception and friendship to all.

Andrew said that Archie's shoes will be difficult to fill. True, but Archie would be first to say that no one is indispensable and anyway, Archie's not leaving his shoes. He is taking them with him as he plans to continue in his lay role within the charitable sector. Someone else is surely benefiting from our loss.

It puts a smile on everyone's face at 21 PP for me to present Archie Naughton to receive the Association of Anaesthetists Award.

**Dr Kathleen Ferguson**  
President-Elect



**Association  
of Anaesthetists**