

In Memoriam Marc Bramson

Founding member of the Exakta Circle

Learning of Marc's passing left me feeling very sad, not just for Marc but for his wife and Daughter Liz and Jess. Our heartfelt feelings go out to them.

When you lose one of your contemporaries it is a double blow; you grieve for your lost friend and you then think of your own mortality, it is natural. I have put these few words together to remember the happy times we had in the past, our first meeting and subsequently taking over the running of the "Exakta Club Collectors Circle" from Mr. J. W. Bruce.

It must have been in the summer of 1983 that I read in the current newsletter the list of members (6 I believe) that a member lived just down the road in Southampton. I was on the phone straight away and before Marc knew what had hit him I turned up at his house in Sholing.

We discussed Exaktas until we were ready to drop! We became good friends right from the word go. Marc knew Stein Falchenberg well and often did deals with him providing us both with many interesting scrap cameras to fiddle with at bargain basement prices! Many deals were done between Marc and myself with Stein's cast offs! They proved to be a valuable step up the very steep learning curve of the Exakta stable.

Things progressed steadily like this for about a year until I had a telephone call from Mr. Bruce in Scotland. (That was most unusual as he always had an excuse for you to phone him!) He was in a state, complaining that running the club etc. was too much of a burden for him and could I take over? Well that was another trip to Marc's house and after lots of tea and coffee provided by Liz we agreed to run the club together as a team effort and try to increase the membership. This very small band continued like this until Photographica '86. Whilst sitting on the floor of the bar (all seating gone) in the lunch break a much larger group of people decided to place the Club on a much firmer footing. Well the club has had its ups and downs but nearly 25 years later it is still here.

I know of late Marc has not attended many of the meetings but his presence was always there and he was always well spoken of. We all missed his snoring after lunch! You just could not keep him awake after 2 o'clock!!

We will all miss Marc a lot, for without him the club would not be what it is today and his presence will always remain.

Terry Calvert
19th March 2010