

Stuart was certainly one of a kind: unfailingly ready to engage on any subject, be it air cargo nets, straps or a recent test match.

Stuart joined Bridport Gundry in 1965, and retired 42 years later, which is in itself a considerable achievement. If I recall correctly, he started off in the design office as a draughtsman before moving into a sales role which is where I first came into contact with him when he started to take responsibility for the Asia Pacific region. For many years, I had the pleasure of working closely with Stuart both remotely by phone and fax, and also face-to-face when we traveled around the Asia-Pacific region to meet customers. And though there could not be a greater contrast between the giant cities of Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing, and Hong Kong, and the small fishing village of Bridport, where Amsafe Bridport is located and where Stuart lived his whole life, Stuart always took it all in stride.

Diligent to a tee, I could always count on Stuart to make things happen. Whether it was getting a shipment of nets out to a customer in a hurry on a Friday afternoon or getting up for breakfast in Tokyo despite 8 hours of jet lag. Simply put: when the going got tough, Stuart got going.

I could fill a couple of pages with stories of various escapades involving Stuart. One that springs immediately to mind is when Stuart and I were running across the check-in hall at KUL to check in late as usual and Stuart's brief case flew open, spilling the contents across the floor...but we made the flight! And of course, there was at least one sponsored "slimming" though I forget how many pounds Stuart managed to lose!

After leaving the industry in 2007, Stuart started to follow his passion for sports, as a reporter for a local newspaper and went on, if I'm not mistaken, to run a number of Dorset local newspapers.

I am today very sad to be farewelling such a character. I think many of us have fond memories of Stuart, and I think all of us hope that as he took the big bird to the heavens and that the cargo was secure under a Bridport net!

- Bob Rogers



