



### **The Conway Gulls.**

*They died in the gales' roaring, in the smash  
Of some green billow whence they never rose;  
Some diced with Death with many lucky  
throws  
Till the last throw, that nulled them into ash.*

*Some were for all adventure, being rash;  
And others died, in thirst and fever-throes,*

*On frontiers at the furthest that man goes,  
Or on the foreman's muzzles, in the flash.*

*And being gone, they wander home again  
Here, to the Ship, and settle on her spars,  
Mewing and going gleaming in the sea.*

*They are our brothers, so let them be,  
Old Conways, fellow-sharers of the stars,  
Advanced another link upon the chain.*

*John Masefield OM  
Poet Laureate and Old Conway*

*Poem written in 1933 to record the Conway  
tradition that seagulls are the returning spirits of  
cadets who have crossed the bar.*

*Stained glass window illustrating the poem in the  
Conway Chapel at Birkenhead Priory*



*Richard Collinson  
Has crossed the bar  
His shipmates remember him*

*HMS Conway 1961-1963*



### **Crossing the Bar**

SUNSET and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness or farewell,  
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crost the bar.

Lord Tennyson

*Our sincere condolences are  
extended to his family.*

*Tom Mason  
President*

*On behalf of the Committee and  
members of  
The Conway Club*

*Having just returned from the wilds of the Cambridgeshire Fens, may I add my name to Richard's card. I have read all the comments and can only concur that we have lost a very special chum.*

*Dafydd Edwards  
Mizzentopman 60/62  
Llanddona.*

*Please add my name to the letter of condolence to be forwarded on our behalf to Gavin and Richards' Collinson family.  
As most of us, I only knew Richard through his writing on our chatsite.  
However I can never forget the joy and pride evident in the photographs he posted of their momentous day. The look on each of his and Gavin's faces as they alighted from the helicopter is something I will never forget.  
We have lost a true individualist, a trait fostered by the education we all shared.*

*Ian Robertson  
1952-1954  
Starb'd Fore  
Australia*

*I got home last night and have just sat down to catch up on the news on this site, to find one of the first items I read was of Richard's passing.  
Please add my name to the long list on the condolence card, Like many others I miss his posts on many subjects on this site.*

*Richard loved discussion, sometimes heated, but he always struck me as being a thoroughly decent human being, his fortitude could only be admired  
We spoke on the telephone but never met, nevertheless as all CONWAY boys we share a bond.  
My sincere condolences to Gavin and Richard's family and friends*

*Rob Tubb  
67-70 Mizzen  
Birkenhead, Merseyside*

*It is a wrench whenever an OC crosses the bar and we hear of it but is even more poignant when it is one of your own era in the ship.  
I was in touch with Richard briefly at the start of his illness when even then the writing was on the wall and have wondered at his ability to fight on against adversity.  
I suspect that Richard faced many times in his life which were not easy.  
I know he used to say he did not enjoy his days at Conway but nevertheless he entered our debates with gusto, interest and alternative viewpoints so there must have been a strong affiliation somewhere and I'm sure we are all proud of the way he acquitted himself.  
We are all poorer for his loss but none more so than Gavin, his partner, to whom my thoughts go out.*

*Nick Champion 61-62 Maintop*

*I would also like to add my name to the condolences for Richard Collinson. I also did not know him but did read his postings.*

*Nicholas Galitzine  
fxl 58-61*

*Peter O'Donnell Mz 66/68  
Neston Wirral*

*My condolences to Gavin and his family.  
I will miss Richard's conversations on Skype and his  
many interesting contributions to this site.*

*Jim Hume 37-040 \* Mizzen  
In the National Capital. Canberra  
35deg 28min South 149deg 21min East*

*Please add my condolences to Gavin and Richards  
family*

*Phil Merritt 64/67 m/t*

*Please add my name to the list of condolences to  
Gavin and Richards family.  
Like so many have already said, I did not know him  
but his contributions to the site have been missed  
and have now gone forever.  
Sometimes controversial, obviously a very clever  
man and his postings what ever you thought of  
them were always thought invoking.*

*Dave Jones  
Foretop 57/59  
Stanford le Hope*

*Please add my condolences to the list. Again I did  
not know Richard.*

*Keith Belfield  
57 - 60 Foretop  
West Wickham*

*Please add my condolences to the ever growing and  
deservedly long list.  
I didn't have the pleasure of meeting him, but I  
will miss his posts.*

*Richard Ahl  
Port Fxl 59-61  
Thorness Bay, Near Cowes  
Isle of Wight*

*Please add my sincere condolences. Will miss his  
viewpoints .  
Thoughts with his family.*

*Dave MacVicker 68/71 Mizzentop  
Sussex*

*Please will you add my sincere condolences to that  
of other OC's to both Gavin and Richard's families.  
Richard was a longtime contributor to the site and  
I, like many others, will miss his not inconsiderable  
lively debates.  
As a Ships Master he had many a tale to tell and  
like any OC he believed that everyone should be  
given a fair hearing,*

*Mike Sanders  
(1958/61) Hold  
Edinburgh*

*Please add my Condolences*

*Vaughan Atkinson  
72-74 Foretop  
Dubai*

*I have just returned from laying a wreath at our Village War Memorial to read of Richard's Crossing the Bar.*

*I didn't know him personally, but very much enjoyed his posts on the site. They never pulled any punches, but were always well thought through.*

*He will be sadly missed.*

*Best wishes and condolences to Richards family, and to Gavin. Although hard at the time, I'm sure that in the future, it will be a release.*

*Keith Spawforth  
52/53 Starb Main  
Brentwood Essex*

*Very sorry to hear about Richard please pass on my condolences to Gavin.*

*Nigel Bateman  
FXL 62-64*

*I'd like to offer my condolences to Richard's family and to add that he will be remembered for being a success in his chosen career...*

*David Cooper  
FXL 61/62  
Yokohama*

*I am very saddened by the loss of Richard, after a long struggle bravely borne. All of us are diminished by the loss and it was put best by John Donne.:*

*No man is an Island, entire of itself  
Every man is a piece of the continent,  
a part of the main  
If a clod be washed away by the sea,  
everone is the less.*

*We are all the less for his passing, and my condolences to Gavin and his other family members.*

*Much sympathy*

*Mike Robinson  
Mizzen 49-51*

*Just seen this sad news. Please add my condolences to the card.*

*Jeff Forrest  
Mz '67-'72  
W.Yorks*

*Please add my condolences to those sent to Gavin, & Richards family.*

*A lot of us will miss his postings.*

*Will Wood  
Main 60/62  
(GZ, PRC)*

*Please add our condolences to the list.*

*I for one agreed more often than disagreed with Richard.*

*I regret not taking the opportunity to meet him; he will be sorely missed*

*Peter*

*Both my wife and I send our condolences to Richards family and especially to Gavin, a true friend.*

*Richard has been in our thoughts and our prayers often during these last months-*

*He was a real example of the Conway Spirit.*

*One can be proud to have had him as a shipmate.*

*God Bless him.*

*Snatch Cammack*

*Stbd Main 51/53*

*Lujan Argentina*

*A very sad loss of a highly intelligent and brave individual.*

*Condolences from Kenya land of Richard's birth.*

*Kwaheri Richard.*

*Spike Harding. Maintop. 60-63.*

*Mombasa*

*Very sad*

*Clearly made a big impact on all of us on this site  
Never short of a comment, or point of view, often the  
minority, unpopular one at that  
Life will definitely be duller for his passing*

*Tony Coates*

*61 - 63 F'top*

*Dubai*

*A brave man on so many levels*

*His intelligence, humour & integrity...not to  
mention his irascibility will be sorely missed.*

*My sincere condolences to Gavin & his family.*

*Andrew*

*68-71 MT*

*I found Richard delightfully irascible, but generous  
to a fault. He once did a favour for me in the midst  
of a furious argument about something or other on  
this site.*

*RIP.*

Peter Robson  
Port Fore 55/57  
Jersey

*Like many on this site I really enjoyed Richard's comments. Even those I did not agree with. I'll never forget the descriptions of the CU. What a great occasion. Condolences to Gavin from Anne and myself.*

*Brian L. Portfore 51-52 Saskatoon*

*Sad to hear that Richard has crossed the bar. We did go out for a drink and a bite a couple of times, be it last year and he still seemed very switched on. His comments and input will be missed even by those who might have disagreed. Variety is the spice of life!*

*Jim I  
MAIN 56-59  
Carlton Colville*

*Just returned from laying the Conway wreath at the Liverpool cathedral .  
Like so many of us I enjoed his wit and posts .  
On behalf of all Conways in the NW please accept our sympathy*

*Haydn Lockwood 46 / 47*

*Very sad to hear the news but to suffer as he did is not living. He*

*Sorry to hear that. He has "Been Promoted to Glory."*

*Prayers for Gavin.  
John Kingwell  
Hold 54/56  
Sarnia  
Ontario*

*I am very sorry to hear of Richard's passing.  
His input to the chat site will be missed.  
Please pass on my condolences to Gavin and  
Richard's family  
salaams  
Bone  
Main 60 - 62  
Sydney*

*Have just returned from laying a wreath on our town Cenotaph for the MN. He was on my thoughts.  
Please add my sincere condolences to his family. It was always interesting to read his viewpoints.*

*Michael Con Lloyd  
56-58 Fxl  
West Sussex.*

*I did not know Richard other than his comments here which I always enjoyed. Must say I did not always agree with all he said but I did admire him*



*suffered in pain and mind for a long period and as we can never turn the switch ourselves, sometimes it comes as a relief. He suffered bravely.*

*My condolences to all his friends and family.*

*Bob Gordon  
Hold 59/62*

*I already miss Richard's lively, thoughtful, and occasional intriguingly controversial (or irascible) contributions to this site. A bold and resolute mariner has now "crossed the bar" and is at peace at last.*

*Please give my condolences to Gavin, and also to Richard's family.*

*Geoffrey Haskins (40/43)  
Poole*

*Very sorry to hear about "Collinson" - We were both at Conway from 61 to 63 where of course we only knew each other by our surnames.*

*An extraordinary character but he willingly gave me good advice when I met him briefly in Great Yarmouth in 1984/5 when I was trying to get back onto the Offshore vessels.*

*At the time Richard amazed me with a story that someone had approached him at the dockside while he was working on his motor bike and offered him a job as a ship's Engineer - stating that as Richard looked like he knew what he was doing that would be good enough!... Needless to say Richard knew his*

*and would like to have met him.*

*Please give my condolences to Gavin, and also to Richard's family.*

*Mike Brookes  
1945/46  
Bude.*

*I have just returned from a moving ceremony at the war memorial "Time like an ever rolling stream, bears all her sons away"*

*Only had a brief contact with Richard on this site where we disagreed over some trivial matter but he was man enough to ensure we parted with mutual respect. Wish I had met him face to face.*

*God rest his Soul !*

*Sid Davies  
42/3 Port Focsle  
Bramhall*

*"Do not ask for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for three." If this quotation is used a little too often, it nevertheless applies particularly to our ever-dwindling maritime family, for a brother has crossed the bar. Richard - and Gavin - were prayed for at Mass this morning in Jerusalem. David Brown, Port Fore 52-53, Bailly-Romainvilliers, France (in a sabbatical year in the Holy Land) A v ery brave man has crossd the bar after a long fight with illness.*

*His humour, bravery and integrity were there for all to see.*

*The Oncologist said he wouldnt see last Christmas and he sent a card saying Yoo-hoo I'm still here!!!*

*limitations and continued serving as Skipper.*

*Defined himself as Irascible but certainly had his heart in the right place.*

*Please add my name to the Condolence card.*

*Peter Gasson - 61-63  
Surrey*

*We will miss him greatly on this site.*

*My condolences and best wishes to Gavin and all Richard's family and friends.*

*QYLMBS*

*Peter Beveridge and Matthew  
63-64*