Ben Eulogy

I am honoured to have the opportunity to say a few words today. Thank you, Geoff and Fran.

The majority here knew Ben as a friend or part of the family, but a few of us are privileged to have known Ben as a close colleague.

We work for Renishaw, an innovative manufacturer of measurement products based in Gloucestershire. The company boasts a significant turnover and now has around 5000 employees. Our small research and development outpost based in Exeter work on the next generation measurement products. An environment that was made for Ben.

Ben first worked with us as a summer placement in 2012, a little shy and quiet but enquiring and enthusiastic and so very quick to learn. He went through the usual undergrad torture of coil making, a painfully slow and repetitive process, without a word of complaint.

We were very lucky that Ben and Sam decided to come and work permanently with us in July 2013.

The two played jokes on each other. In hospital Ben was recounting that he acquired several stickers from a supplier and stuck them under and inside items around Sam’s desk and challenged him to find them. Sam told Ben that he was still finding them today.

Working with Ben was a pleasure and, as you all know, he was a joy to be around and made work that little bit more pleasing with a mischievous smile that made the most difficult problems easier to cope with.

As our reluctant social secretary, organising meals out and films, Ben was constantly keen to hand over the responsibility but always failed to find a willing volunteer.

Ben was a brilliant engineer. His understanding of the technicalities of mechanical design was surpassed by few. He understood computer aided design as if it was second nature and was massively inciteful and creative.

Ben frequently met our Chairman Sir David who, in his seventies, still critiques our designs.

Well we all know how shy Ben can be and this in the early days was somewhat nerve racking for him, but as the years went by Ben gained in confidence and would often make Sir David think twice and the two would happily discuss the merits of one design over another.

Ben was well respected by the whole of the Renishaw board who sent him a message in December explaining how Ben was a very special part of the Renishaw family and how his can-do and determined attitude contributed to the success of the company.

I believe Ben really enjoyed his work and was desperate to keep working right up to the end. Ben’s dedication and desire to keep working as though nothing had changed was typical of how he lived his life. An example to us all.

Ben, you will be sorely missed by all your colleagues and I hope that when you are looking down on our design reviews you don’t get too upset when we struggle to make decisions without you here to help us.