

# Editorial

To most of us, he was simply “Wlad”. Of course, I can add nothing that comes close to the personal feelings that Andrzej Tarlecki expresses in his moving obituary notice that heads the contents of this edition of our journal. But it was one of Wlad’s charms that anyone who met him more than once or twice felt a very close link with him as a wise and wily friend. Certainly for me, there was more than one occasion when his freely shared experience of life helped me navigate a difficult decision process.

Wlad also had an incredible sense of humour and mischief, both of which were a pleasure to see in action at the special ETAPS workshop that celebrated his sixty-fifth birthday in Warsaw (if you weren’t there, take a look at his slides: <http://www.mimuw.edu.pl/etaps03/Workshops/se-wmt.html>). Thankfully at that time his health problems were incommoding rather than incapacitating. But even when his health was a more serious impediment, I know just how much he valued and put into the preparations for the honorary degree that his institute awarded to Tony Hoare in 2012.

To return to the good times, I must be one of many who had the experience of recounting some story only to have it firmly trumped by Wlad. I only once came close to scoring a point: as Andrzej notes, Wlad initially undertook research in astronomy and had spent time at Jodrell Bank. When I invited Wlad to give a seminar at Manchester, I made no mention of that past but had arranged that John Davies—his main collaborator from his earlier life—join us at dinner.

To retell just one anecdote that indicates his mischievous humour, let me go back to 1985. Lynn Marshall was at that time doing a PhD with me in Manchester and she gave a talk on her evolving research at TAPSOFT in Berlin. I was initially delighted to see that Wlad would chair her session. After an excellent talk I went to talk to Lynn; Wlad saw me approach and said to her “That was the best talk I’ve heard on VDM”—my normally astute colleague replied “But I didn’t mention VDM”—Wlad (closing the trap and looking at both of us) said “Precisely”.

Cliff B. Jones

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