

# Messages

from those who could not be  
here today



From: John Dainton

Let me take your opportunity to pass on my message given that a) I regrettably cannot come, and b) I have never actually worked on anything with Graham but know him well from the odd committees on which we have coincided.

Whenever I am within earshot of Graham I anticipate at least one penetratingly witty remark from him, sometimes somewhat under his breath. It will usually concern the blindingly obvious in what is being debated heatedly by the committee table round which we are sitting. It will often leave me wrestling to control any visible signs of the mirth which it creates in me, and thereby will also strengthen my resolve to see that the blindingly obvious happens despite the obfuscation!

One particular recollection exemplifies the above. It occurred at NIKHEF where we shared time on the same review committee. The Director was late in arriving, and we all stood round the locked door for the meeting. The grumbling started. The muttering from Graham was precise and to the point following a remark from another that it was already 15 minutes past the agreed hour of commencement. "He" (the Director) "should understand that some of us consider 15 mins to be important given the number of such 15 mins left to us." I of course this time collapsed uncontrollably in mirth, and even more so as the secretary of the committee duly ran off with this sentiment in his head to presumably relate to the delayed Director of this concern!

Well Graham I consider it a certainty that you have many many numbers of 15 mins left! And more power to your elbow as a result. I will certainly look forward to enjoying some of them in your presence as and when our paths may cross, and I wish you well for the future in whatsoever you set about doing and lots of opportunities for more poignant and "mirthful" remarks. It was always a memorable pleasure for me whenever our paths crossed.

John

From: Peter Dornan

Unfortunately I now have to be in CERN on the 29th and 30th so I must excuse myself. Please convey my very best wishes to Graham. To an experimentalist like myself Graham has invariably been most approachable and quite prepared to patiently answer questions for which, in some cases, the most favourable comment would be that they were naïve. I trust he will continue, as many of us do now, in a constructive retirement, i.e. leave all the paperwork to the young ones and enjoy the physics.

Best Regards,

Peter



Hi Graham!

From: Gabriel German



pity I am not there to congratulate you personally. In any case I wish you the best in your new tasks which, no doubt, will be many, as usual.

I suppose you will be moving to a smaller room, please do not forget to bring along my D. Phil. thesis (up there),



When you invite me for my third sabbatical I want to see it there.





Oh by the way the bottle of whisky you gave last time was great, thank you!

Gabriel



From: Ian Halliday

Hi Graham, Sorry I cannot make it as your date clashes with a European Science Foundation Council meeting which I have to Chair. I am sure a good day will be had by all so I add my good wishes I still remember your description of me as part of the Russian School. Still not sure whether to be flattered or not. Ian



## From: Gordy Kane

Dear Graham,

I'm sorry I can't manage to come and celebrate the beginning of the next stage of your career. I understand of course that it is not a retirement. I remember when I came to Rutherford/Oxford for a year and you were there as a postdoc who immediately taught me the Standard Model and guaranteed that was where the action would be. You were among the most committed theorists, who preferred to stay a productive postdoc for a long time rather than take a faculty position where teaching and research would dilute your research time. Now you will finally have the opportunity to finish all the projects that did get delayed. It has been very good for most of us to have someone around who was better at physics, squash, house building, and more.

Warmest regards to you, and Ruth, from myself and Lois,  
Gordy

## From: Christopher Llewellyn-Smith

I am really sorry that I cannot be here for this meeting, which would have allowed me to express my appreciation for Graham as a friend and a physicist, and to see many old friends.

Ten or more years ago I bumped into the recently retired Oxford philosopher John Lucas in the street. I asked him how he was enjoying retirement. John replied: 'It's fine, but I miss the holidays'.

Graham: although I expect that you will soon come to understand this remark, I hope that retirement will allow you a little more leisure, while – free from committees meetings and tutorials – continuing to entertain and enlighten us with an undiminished (or even increased) output of physics.



From: David Miller

Dear Graham,

It was good to see and hear you in the discussions at Coseners House this week.

Sorry we did not have a chance to talk. Now you have got so far beyond the standard model that you may hardly remember your work on  $k\text{-bar-N}$  scattering with Alan Martin, on which we based the analysis of the last NIMROD bubble chamber experiment. Thanks again for that. Enjoy your retirement.

Retirement is not so dull as long as your colleagues tolerate your attendance at interesting meetings and talks, and if they tolerate any grumpy questions you may ask.

Yours ever

David

From: Stuart Raby

**Dear Graham,**

**I am very sorry that I am unable to attend the Graham Fest. Nevertheless I wanted to send this brief message to reach you on this special occasion. I can see from the program that many of your significant contributions to our field will be presented at the Fest. Let me just add my sentiment that you are truly a leader in the field starting from your work on QCD, to grand unification, cosmology, supersymmetry and string phenomenology. In all these areas you have left an indelible mark.**

**But just as important to me, you have always been a dear friend. It has been great fun, hiking with you in the mountains around Aspen or visiting in Oxford. I remember that first summer we met, floating down the Arkansas river near Aspen. I mean, in the river, and not on the raft. This was great fun (until the two rivers met ☺) and the start of a long friendship. I wish you all the best on this "joyous occasion."**

**Best regards,**

**Stuart**



## From: Pierre Ramond

Back at Caltech ... Glennys Farrar announced that her new postdoc had arrived from CERN.

Since she and I do not work on similar things, I stayed away from this stocky bearded guy, and it took a while before we connected; he was busy with QCD calculations.

I learned that GGR is not nor ever was "anybody's postdoc". We found that we liked one another and enjoyed talking physics. The same applied to the families as both were awash with daughters.

Graham seemed to know everything about quantum field theory, while I knew very little, and our skills complemented one another.

One day in Graham's office (probably on the axion-- to this day we blame one another for not noticing that the PQ breaking could take place at large energy!), when Feynman comes in. He asks Graham (not me) about the running couplings in qft. Graham answers him and before he is finished, Feynman interrupts him and says something like "Oh, that's what it is-- I know that ..." and walks out!

I was very impressed because rarely did Feynman ask anything but he had picked up on Graham's skills and no BS attitude.

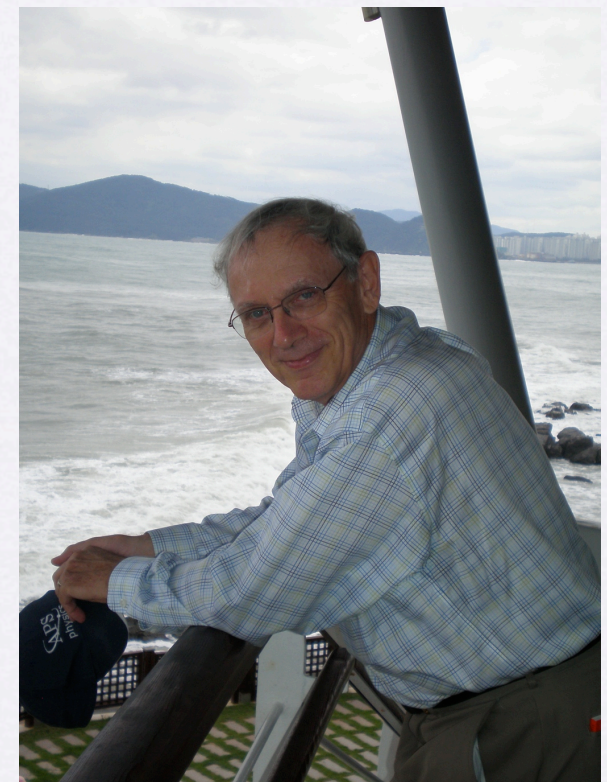
One negative note: although at Caltech, Brink I tried to educate him on supersymmetry, he was a bit slow, but faster than Feynman. Nobody is perfect!

Graham and I have had have worked together several times and our best papers came when we attacked the same problem from different points of view. Free from admin duties, he will be that much harder to keep up with. Not bad for an Aberdoonian!

The Great Scott is indeed great, as a physicist but especially as a lifelong friend.

Pierre

I attach a picture of a typical pict destroying physical property! also a picture of myself a month ago.





From: Gino Segre`

Dear Graham:

I am very sorry I cannot make it to Oxford for the party celebrating your retirement. You have been an inspiration for 40 years to all of us in particle physics for the wealth of your ideas, your personal and professional generosity, your enormous energy and for your dedication to advancing the field. You are also fun to be with! I am pleased to see that no signs of slowing down are in sight despite retirement. Keep it up. We need you.

All the very best----Gino

From: James Stirling

I would be grateful if you could pass on my personal regards and best wishes to Graham. He really has been **\*\*the\*\*** pillar of the UK HEP theory community for ... well, since forever it seems! All of us owe him a great deal for his leadership and wise counsel through good and less good times. In the now-distant past he was very supportive of me when my career was still developing, and I will always be grateful to him for that. I don't know whether he plans to continue researching, or slip away to do something else in his "retirement". In any case, I wish him all the very best.

Best wishes

James



From: Tom Weiler

Dear Graham,

congratulations on a career well done (to date).

In addition to your lasting physics contributions, you have made lasting friends along the way. I count myself as one of them.

Perhaps you remember taking me under your wing in 1977 at Caltech, when you were a senior postdoc and I was a two-month visitor.

I had received my PhD just five months earlier, and was still building self-confidence and learning to fly. I very much appreciate your paternal mentoring in those days.

We wrote a paper on  $SM \times U(1)$  [your idea].

Now many are doing similar work, in the name of "string inspired" - we were way ahead of our time, so much so that the paper has but a single-digit number of citations!

Turning now from your illustrious past to your future,  
I wish you the continued best,

Tom

From: Fábio Zwirner

I am really sorry that I cannot be in Oxford to celebrate your Fest and greet you with so many friends and colleagues.

I wish you the very best for the new phase of your career and life.

I am confident that will be many other opportunities to meet, discuss physics (and also have a drink and a good dinner together!) in the coming years, and I am looking forward to them.

All the best,

Fábio



Lawrence Hall: "... can't come as our group is having a retreat that weekend so, alas, I must decline. Too bad because I do have many wonderful memories of working with Graham in the 1980's, starting when he was at RAL. If my memory serves, our first collaboration started in Aspen in the summer of '82".

Riccardo Barbieri: "I regret but I have a duty in the last two days of September as dean (my last days as dean too). I deeply regret because Graham is also a good friend of mine".

Frank Close: "You can always say that after playing squash against Graham for 35 years I needed new challenges but add that I was honoured to receive the full benefit of his wisdom on court and both things he taught me were very useful".

Rocky Kolb: "My life is sufficiently complicated by family and work responsibilities that I will be unable to attend. Pity, because I have the utmost respect for Graham. Thanks for thinking of me".

Bill Spence: "I am unfortunately unable to come but I would like to pass on my very best wishes to Graham for the day and to say thank you for his extraordinary and long-lasting contributions to our field".

Ben Allanach  
Guido Altarelli  
Stefan Antusch  
James Binney  
Pierre Binetruy  
Grahame Blair  
Martín Bureau  
Jonathan Butterworth  
Mike Daniel  
Sacha Davidson  
Brian Foster  
Mary K Gaillard  
Christophe Grojean  
Chris Hill  
Mark Hindmarsh

Chris Hull  
Ian Jack  
Cecília Jarlskorg  
Richard Kenway  
Axel de la Macorra  
Nick Manton  
Antonio Masiero  
John McDonald  
Carlos Munoz  
Hans Peter Nilles  
Sílvia Pascoli  
Stefan Pokorski  
Mariano Quiros

...many more have  
sent apologies

Andrea Romanino  
Jorge Romao  
Douglas Ross  
Carlos Savoy  
Mario Serna  
Mike Seymour  
Joe Silk  
Terry Sloane  
Jose Valle  
Ivo de Medeiros  
Varzielas  
Dave Wark  
Bryan Webber



But many more  
have come today

... so now on with  
GrahamFest!