

Obituary for Angus Webb for ONA – RGS Magazine

Angus Webb (86-92)

Born 16 August 1974, died 8 April 2020, aged 45



Angus grew up in Whitley Bay. As a teenager, he was an accomplished county-level swimmer with Tynemouth Swimming Club, and a lifeguard on North Tyneside beaches. He was also a keen Boy Scout who attended international jamborees. He was very musical - playing piano, as well as the clarinet in North Tyneside Wind Band. He was fluent in French and Spanish, and he loved to ski. He was proud to be admitted as a member of Mensa.

On graduating from Northumbria University with a BSc (Hons) in Information and Communication Management in 2002, he was awarded the final year prize for the best student. He was head-hunted, through the university, by Northumberland-based market research agency, Dipsticks (DRG), as ICT / Marketing Executive, with a remit to help create the technical infrastructure of the business. After eighteen months, he was invited to join the Board of Directors, and set up DRG's online consumer research. He thus created Panelbase which became his absolute passion/baby. He was known globally for dealing with business 24/7 and could be seen coping with customer queries, breakfast in hand. During his leadership as founder and managing director of the company, an undisputed workaholic, he grew Panelbase to a community providing access to more than 300,000 UK adults and over 50,000 under-16s. He built Panelbase to achieve international recognition. In addition, he led the company's move into many new aspects of market research. Panelbase clients include BBC, Sky, NHS, Virgin Radio, Coop, Durham Council, SNP, Scottish Green Party, The Guardian, The Sunday Times, Newcastle Journal, Marks & Spencer, Allianz, RHS, Northumbria University, Sheffield University, Slimmingworld, Rohan.

DRG co-founder [John Raglan](#) said "Angus played an enormous part in the Panelbase/DRG family in so many ways, and of course, was always the last to leave the party. He became a highly-respected figure in the panel industry, both within the UK and worldwide, and we've received more than 800 e-mails of condolence from across the globe. We are all devastated and no words can even go partway to describe what an amazing 'gentle giant' he was. Angus was a true leader in every sense of the word. We will all miss him and life will certainly not be the same with his passing".

Fiona Raglan, joint owner added

"No words can express how devastated I am at Angus's passing.

From the day he walked into our lives nearly 18 years ago, he has given 110% to the business. Panelbase was his baby, he grew and nurtured it to become one of the leading UK panels. No mean feat. We've seen him develop over those years to become the truly professional, passionate, caring individual he was. He'll be missed by hundreds of people who he's helped either to develop their own potential or companies who have grown their businesses through using Panelbase. He was a true leader in every sense of the word". Angus was the middle of three Webb brothers at RGS. His older brother Graham (84-90) captained RGS rugby going on to play for Northern and Percy Park. He completed a human geography degree, before joining Northumbria Police. Having served as deputy helmsman of Cullercoats lifeboat, and as crew on Tynemouth Lifeboat, he emigrated to Canada where he now works for Vancouver Police Marine Unit. Younger brother Derek (89-95) completed a degree in Mechanical Engineering, followed by a Masters in Materials Engineering. He now works in the oil industry for Technip FMC on the River Tyne. Their sister Shirley studied Maths and then went on to become an Olympic athlete as British hammer champion, then a television Gladiator, and now works for SportScotland.

In early March 2020 Angus had attended a market research conference in New York and another in London, before he went for a few days holiday to Spain, prior to lockdown. He was confirmed with Covid-19 shortly after arriving in Spain. His work colleague at both these conferences, who remained in the UK, also developed Covid symptoms but recovered. The town in Spain where Angus was staying has a first class hospital, and his care was the best at that time, but after 20 days, 17 on a ventilator, he lost his fight. He was strong and healthy. We are all devastated.

By Andrew and Rosemary Webb