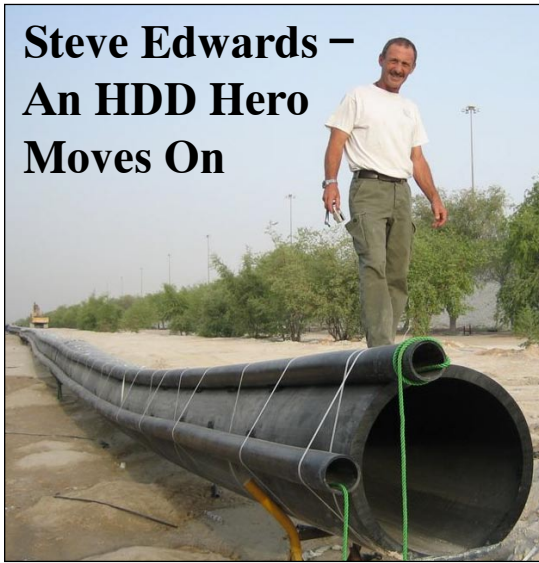


Steve Edwards – An HDD Hero Moves On



Steve Edwards was one of the most respected names in the horizontal directional drilling (HDD) industry. As an industry pioneer, he drilled all over the world, including in the US, Europe, Middle East, Asia, and Africa, to name a few places!

Those privileged to know Steve were aware of the big heart under his tough exterior. He was normally quiet and introspective, while at the same time feisty, strong-minded, rebellious, and opinionated. Yet Steve was always one of the most humble, honest, hard-working, brave, and generous people on this planet.

Stephen John Edwards was born on 9 August 1955 in Kettering, England. His entire family consisted of him and his mother Dorothy, until 1958 when she married Emrys Edwards, who gave Steve his last name. Before long, Steve had two brothers, Brian and Richard.

Always the “new kid on the block,” as his family moved a lot during his youth, he was teased by schoolmates, which no doubt contributed to his dislike for school. In his early years, he would fool his mum by getting on the school bus, only to go fishing instead! The only subject Steve enjoyed was geography, which, along with his early exposure to “life on the move,” makes it no wonder that he traveled and settled so easily in different environments all over the world.

Steve joined the British Armed Forces at the age of 15 and served for a few years before going to work on a farm. This is where he met Valerie Bailey; they married when he was 20 and remained married for 16 years. In April 1985, Steve became the father of his daughter Samantha, the “apple of his eye.”

Steve began his career as a bulldozer operator. This led him into the heavy construction industry and then into engineering, before he found his true calling in the HDD industry.

He started in the HDD industry working for FlowMole Corp. (now UTILX) in England. Steve was a natural. His first installation job was done without any instructions after the regular crew members failed to report to work. He quickly advanced to more difficult jobs and became the recognized expert in FlowMole’s drilling operations.

After 4 years at FlowMole using small directional drill rigs, Steve went to work for FlowTex GUT in Germany where he graduated to 20-plus ton rigs.

In 1993, FlowTex purchased a 40-ton machine, and with it was born the “Betsy” crew. This six-man crew, which included Steve’s brother Richard, comprised a perfect combination of brains and brawn to get those tough HDD jobs done in remote and difficult conditions. Steve eventually worked on rigs as large as 400 tons, and he became proficient in mud motoring and the sophisticated wireline guidance systems used on large-scale HDD installations.

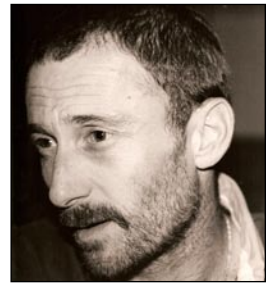
Steve met his second wife Claudia in Germany in 1991. It was a true meeting of soul mates, as neither could understand what the other was saying—Steve spoke only English, and Claudia, only German. They married 9 years later on 1 January 2000 in Melbourne, Australia, an easy date for Steve to remember!

Having honed his skills on all aspects of directional drilling, Steve went into business for himself for a few years as an HDD consultant before Digital Control Inc. (DCI) hired him and his wife Claudia to set up a branch office in Germany (DCI GmbH).

During Steve’s work with DCI GmbH, he helped prevent a potential disaster in Romania by drilling drain holes into a hill below a village that was perilously close to collapsing. The drain holes saved the village and potentially lives as well. One life definitely helped by Steve’s presence and huge heart was that of a young local girl who had been an interpreter during the project. Steve’s assistance



extended to helping her emigrate from her life of poverty in Romania and providing her with an opportunity for education in the West.



The success of the German office inspired DCI to ask Steve and Claudia to help open another branch office, this time in India (DCI India Pvt Ltd). Much of this work was completed after Steve was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. In his last year he not only set up the India office, but he traveled to Dubai, Egypt, Germany, and the US without complaint.

During the course of Steve’s life he enjoyed the wind in his face from riding motorcycles. His last bike was a Harley Davidson that traveled with him from England to Germany and then to South Africa, where Steve moved in 2004 to establish TRG International Pipeline Company (Pty) Ltd. with Andre Wood.

Steve loved to play rugby. He was often the shortest guy on the team but it did nothing to deter him. On the pitch he was



Who dares wins!

often referred to as being like a terrier—a tenacious battler who was tough in the tackle and who would “never give up the fight.” This sentiment, as all who knew him would agree, encapsulates Steve’s attitude toward all the battles that life sent his way, up to and including what was to be his final battle with cancer.

Steve had strong convictions about right and wrong and was a very honest man. If you asked his opinion, you knew you would get a frank response with no sugar-coating.

Steve was also incredibly brave. Once, on a job in Poland, his truck was stolen, so he chased the thieves down the highway and repeatedly rammed one of their cars. When he saw that one of the thieves had a mask and an automatic rifle, his good judgment told him to break off the chase. It was later learned that Steve had had an encounter with the Russian mafia!

Sadly, Steve Edwards passed away on 28 October 2007 in his home in Sandton, South Africa. He died peacefully with his wife Claudia by his side after a 2-year-long battle with cancer. He is also survived by his mother, daughter, stepfather, and two brothers.

“May you be in Heaven a full half hour before the Devil knows you’re dead”—this is the kind of thing Steve would have said about himself!