

Colin Burnett

After graduating in 1986, Colin commenced his Chartered Accountancy training with a national firm, Pannell Kerr Forster, in its Edinburgh office. He gained experience in auditing companies and charities of various sizes (including ADRA as it happens) before focusing on business advisory work and developing closer links with various clients helping them to manage and grow their businesses. He was then promoted to manage the department and during this time he was also acting as the Financial Controller of a College of Nursing and Midwifery and then latterly he managed the Edinburgh practice finances reporting to the partners. He also implemented the first computerised accounting system to Moredun Scientific (which was still Moredun Animal Health at that point) in the very early 1990's.

In 1994 he was approached to help develop a national initiative for Pannell Kerr Forster which he then moved in to. This then subsequently became an independent CA practice of which he became a Director and he was still heavily involved with the College work and also the restructuring of a charity in East Lothian liaising closely with the then Government department responsible for Charity regulation, the predecessor body of OSCR.

In 2000 he joined Moredun which by then was settling into its new home at Pentlands Science Park but unfortunately was heavily indebted to the bank and also to Scottish Enterprise. At his first meeting with the audit partner, who he had known from practice days, he was told somewhat bluntly, that Moredun would be insolvent within a year unless something changed! Putting his advisory experience to good use, he rolled up his sleeves, got to grips with the various Moredun businesses and commenced a debt restructuring and with Quintin McKellar, the then Chief Executive, worked his way through various issues. George Walker starting as the Pentlands Science Park Manager in 2001 meant the start of a double act which lasted nearly two decades – inevitably with Colin as the bad guy threatening to get debt collectors involved with any slow paying tenants and George remaining the good guy to stay on good terms with the said tenants – somehow it worked and despite recessions along the way we didn't lose too many tenants or have too many bad debts!

In addition to his work at Moredun, Colin was involved with the local Chamber of Commerce for many years – and under his Chairmanship it expanded to cover both Midlothian and East Lothian. He was also on the board of its holding company and was on the Council of Scottish Chambers of Commerce. He was a founding member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland Charities Committee which he served on for many years.

Moredun has been a part of his career from Jim Stobo, Ian Atken and Murdo Mackenzie days when Colin was an auditor, right through to the current time when Tom McNeilly took

over from Julie Fitzpatrick under the Chairmanship of Gareth Baird. Colin has said that it has been a privilege to work for such a fantastic organisation with so many great colleagues, board members, Chairs and others. He is always quick to point out that he was supported by a fantastic finance team – many of whom worked alongside him for over 10 years and some for over 20 years! In particular Jayne McLeman and Ian Forrest – two finance stalwarts.