

Tom Moran 1948-2014



Tom Moran (right) with Tom Dorsey of Thomas & Thomas.

Tom Moran's rod building story began in the early 1970's when, as a young man wanting direction, he discovered a couple of old Hardy bamboo rods in a holiday cottage in the Lake District, and knew instantly he had found his path, writes Mark Leggett.

Tom, who was born in British Malaya, the son of a British serviceman, was entirely self-taught.

Starting with tapers by Richard Walker, he was later heavily influenced by Everett Garrison's masterpiece *A Bamboo Fly Rod*. Through the 1970's and 80's Tom developed his rod-making skills, initially in partnership with Mike Jordan in The Franklin Rod Company before joining Partridge of Redditch. He also produced a number of rods with Homer Jennings, before making

rods independently for a while. Tom moved to the US in 1992, working alongside Tom Dorsey at Thomas and Thomas, who placed him 'above and beyond any rod-maker I have met', before Tom returned to England in 1995.

He continued building rods until 2003/4 when for personal reasons he stopped completely, starting again in 2007 though only producing rods in small numbers, due to a lack of workshop facilities.

He was invited to join Hardy in 2010, developing a successful relationship with Callum Gladstone.

Tom never achieved real commercial success, (he was a self-confessed 'terrible businessman'), but his passion for his craft never faded and he remained unfaltering and committed to the path he chose.

He lived for rod-making, re-designing his Redditch council house to accommodate his craft, and will be remembered as one of the greatest talents of the bamboo rod makers' world, by those who know his work, and as a caring, passionate and generous man, by his friends and family.

Tom Moran passed away peacefully in the company of his family on May 12, 2014.