

Watch That Patient!

by Tejaswi Mellachervu



Patients often have interesting stories to tell and are avid watch collectors, or have an interesting piece with some history behind it

In this month's column, I discuss all things watch-related with one of my patients, Mr Godwin, who has an illustrious past: He competed in pistol shooting in the Commonwealth Games and in numerous championships around the world.

Tejaswi Mellachervu: What got you into watches?

Mr Godwin: I've always had an interest in mechanical objects, and tinkering around with these ... it started with clocks, I guess. I don't claim to be a watch collector, because I don't actually have a collection, but just this one watch I always wear and hardly ever comes off.

TM: You're wearing a vintage Rolex. What's the story behind it?

G: This is a special piece to me, with an interesting history. The way I acquired it is the story itself, actually. In 1974, I was stationed out in Hong Kong with the 1st Battalion light infantry. An acquaintance at the time had this watch, I didn't know what it was, just that it looked nice. He wanted to sell it and I wanted to buy



Mr Godwin and his special watch—can you guess what it is yet?

it, so we did the deal. I paid him the handsome price of 60HKD at the time, which was about 45 quid. I took it some time later to Rolex House in Hong Kong for a service, and only then realised what I had bought!

TM: What other watches do your family own?

G: When I left the army in 1991, I bought each of my four sons a Rolex GMT-Master II. I initially went to

Harrods to enquire about these watches, but they couldn't supply them. In the end, Goldsmiths jewellers were able to do so—that too with a small discount. I called my sons around to my house—I had told them they had a gift each but that each one was different. One boy opened his box and was elated it was a Rolex; the others proceeded to open theirs, too, and were just as happy they had a Rolex each as well ... but because the



Godwin's Rolex GMT Master, which he bought in 1974 for the equivalent of £45!

watches looked the same, my sons wondered what I had meant when I said each was different. I told them to check the serial number on the back, of course—no Rolex will have the same serial number as another!

TM: Do you have any watches that have been passed down to you?

G: I have an old Chaulet Swiss watch, which was my uncle's so it's really quite old. It's a very elegant dress watch with a nice elasticated gold band, and just enough scratches on it to give it a certain vintage charm!

TM: Where do you have your watches serviced?

G: Outside of Rolex itself—



Did I even get any dentistry done?



The gold Chaulet watch given to him by his uncle

which is really very expensive for a service—I trust it to the Luxury Watch Co., based in Keighley, which does full service on my watch for around £190, which really is excellent value.

So there we have it, folks. You don't always need to have a large collection of watches, or the most expensive watch—sometimes just that one watch has enough history behind it to tell a story all of its own.

Dental-related tip: Don't know what to say to patients sometimes as an ice-breaker? Look at the watch they're wearing—it makes for an excellent talking point! ■