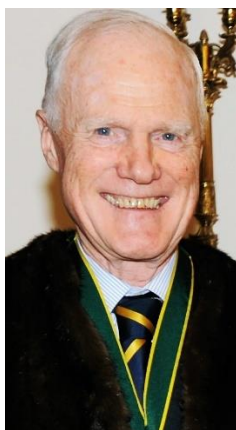


Don GROCOTT TD MA FRSA FIoD

Master Spectacle Maker 5th October 2016 - 3rd October 2017



Don is the Chairman of RP Fighting Blindness a charity supporting research into the genetic disease, Retinitis Pigmentosa. He is also the Director of the Cyclotron Trust, a small charity interested in particle therapy and he works to support patient interests in the private healthcare sector.

Don took a degree at the University of Edinburgh and then began a marketing and general management career. This started with Procter & Gamble in Newcastle and developed primarily in the contact lens industry.

He has been much involved in the representative side of optics, having been Chairman of the Association of Contact Lens Manufacturers and President of Euromcontact, the European contact lens manufacturers federation. He was also President of the Association of Optometrists and President of FODO, the federation representing the larger optical retail businesses. It was whilst in these two latter posts that he led an initiative to form the Optical Confederation which brings together five optical representative bodies to work more closely together and to speak for the sector to government. He was elected its founding chairman.

It was through his activities in optics that he became a Spectacle Maker. He was appointed to the Court of Assistants in 2012.

Don has had a parallel career in the Territorial Army. He was commissioned whilst at university and served in several Signal Regiments before holding staff appointments in the Signals Directorate in London and then in Blandford. He was delighted to be invited in 2003 to be the Honorary Colonel of the Middlesex Yeomanry squadron which he had commanded in 1978. During his twelve years as Squadron Colonel, the Spectacle Makers invited the squadron to be its Army Reserve affiliate.

Don is a member of Chatham House and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. His wife, Patricia, is currently Professor of Nursing Technology and Innovation at King's College London.