

## Pro-Chancellor

Charles Hunter Pease has been an active volunteer and Board Member of the RNLI for twenty five years, most recently as Chair of the Board before retiring in September 2016. He also enjoyed a highly successful thirty year career with the Volvo Car Corporation, rising through the ranks to become Senior Vice President.

Charles was born in Yorkshire, but spent most of his childhood in Greenock, Scotland with his mother and two sisters. Although he had a very happy childhood, he admits that it was not an easy upbringing - his father struggled to settle after returning from the war, so he had to grow up quickly and take on the tasks of an adult at a very young age.

In the early 1960's Charles started an accountancy apprenticeship, attending Glasgow University for a year in the middle of the five year course where he studied economics and law. These subjects proved somewhat challenging, to such an extent that he asked to be released from his apprenticeship. He says that he would have jumped at the chance of pursuing a Business Studies course had it been available.

In 1973, Charles applied for a job as a Financial Advisor to Volvo retailers in Scotland. He enjoyed learning and always sought opportunities to develop his knowledge and skills. Being prepared to travel with his work, he was regularly promoted, ultimately becoming a Senior Vice President in 1993.

Whilst at Volvo, Charles was instrumental in starting a fundraising campaign for the RNLI as the ethos of both organisations was 'safety', raising over four million pounds in ten years. He was encouraged to become a member of the RNLI fundraising committee, subsequently serving on a range of RNLI committees, becoming Chairman in 2013. He was awarded an OBE in the same year for services to maritime safety.

Charles believes that success comes from understanding one's own values, working hard to find organisations which match these, and treating everyone as you would wish to be treated yourself. He believes this is the secret to an enjoyable working life.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Charles Hunter Pease, and I ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Business Administration, *honoris causa*.