



## A life less ordinary

‘Look, Father, you only go around the track once,’ the lover of horse and dog racing wryly remarked to his parish priest, Canon MacDermot-Roe, his eyes sparkling with laughter. Had Phil Trant’s life taken the course that it was early set on, it could have been Phil who was the priest, having spent several years in a seminary in study for ordination. Instead, Phil, the loved son, brother and uncle, was also to become a loving husband and father and founder of the construction company that was to bear his name and become one of England’s largest privately owned engineering contractors. Phil’s own life was to be brought to an early end when he was killed in a car crash in January 1984, aged just 61. But the company he founded was to be steered to further growth and commercial diversity by the sons who had learnt by their father’s example.

This book is the story of the man who was held in such high regard that his funeral literally brought the traffic to a standstill in his adopted city of Southampton. But it is more than that. It is the story of the Trant family through the decades; the family in Kerry who shaped who Phil was and the values he lived; the story of the family of the Catholic Church that gave Phil the ethical prism through which he saw life; the story of the people who came to work with Trant’s and stayed for decades, becoming part of the wider Trant family; and the story of the legacy inherited by Phil’s children and what they did with his creation.

This is the story of a born leader of men, affectionately known to all as ‘the Old Man’, who started life with little, but who, through grit and hard work, built the company that, 25 years after his death, not only still survives in family hands, but which thrives with an annual turnover of more than £100 million, with projects in many parts of the world as far away as the Falkland Islands. It is, above all, the story of a patriarch and his family. It is the story of the Trants.

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Once Around The Track:

*The Life and Times of Phil Trant and the Trant Family Business*



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