

Waldo Human, president of the Western Cape Numismatic Society

It has come as a shock to us, as members of the Society, and as his friends, to hear that Waldo Human passed away on 13 November 2025.

It was only a brief time ago that Waldo completed our "Seven Short Questions to a Fellow Collector" on the Society website, which gave a small insight into his interests and described his entry into the numismatic world.

Waldo had an incredible ability to recognize coins with potential, often when they were dirty, or badly illustrated on websites worldwide. He would often proudly tell me when a "cheapie" would turn out to be a Top Pop after grading at NGC.

Waldo had various collecting themes, and when a theme grabbed his attention, he approached it with single-mindedness as illustrated by his prize-winning sets on the NGC website.

The first prize set was the South African Rand , followed by a Custom Set containing the Cent and Rand collection .

This set contained all the colour varieties and proof types, and naturally many of the examples are finest known.

However, there were other sets that were waiting in the wings, and it was here that Waldo and I had a longstanding friendly (or was it serious) rivalry. For in my collection, was the 1936 Farthing in MS, one of 3 or 4 minted. Without it, how was Waldo going to complete his farthing set ?

After threats and continuous pleading over several years, he made me promise that it would belong to him someday, but unfortunately this was not to be.

Despite this friendly friction, we enjoyed a wonderful camaraderie, and often discussed coins and our latest finds, or potential acquisitions (with the hope of fending off each other), and when Waldo moved temporarily to Saudi Arabia for work, we continued to talk often online, not only about numismatics, but about many other common subjects and interests.

I first met Waldo about 20 years ago, when I bought a graded coin on auction labelled "Human Collection". I thought that was the human collection, and wondered what other kind of collector there could be ?

So, when I eventually collected a coin from him in person, I realised the meaning of the word "Human" , and we continued to laugh about it for years afterwards. This , and our shared interests and competitiveness, led to the great friendship which I have valued tremendously.

And so, it came as a great shock to me, when I received a message from him to say that he had been recently and unexpectedly diagnosed with cancer.

In our last conversation I expressed to Waldo that it had been a great honour to me to have met him, and I am sure that all the Society members feel the same way.

As a Society, we extend our condolences to his family.

Adrian Jordi