

## WILLIAM ANTHONY RISING (TONY)

Born 13 February 1941 - Died 9 November 2020

(RGS 1949 - 1958)

Tony sat his entrance exam for the RGS in 1948. Whilst they were waiting for the start of the exam other boys began to arrive. To give him confidence his father kindly encouraged him by saying "These boys don't look very clever"! Luckily he passed and the RGS had an impact on the rest of his life.

He made lifelong friends, was introduced to rugby which was to be the start of an affair with the game and was given a good education that enabled him to qualify as a Chartered Accountant and grant his ambition to work abroad.

The RGS cultivated Tony's love of rugby and he was encouraged by John Elders the new rugby master. In one season Tony was selected to play for Northumberland under 21s. To quote from the school magazine "William Anthony Rising with deceptive running, swerve, sidestepping and speed twice beat most of the opposition to score tries which left spectators and players gasping". Unfortunately Tony never improved on his early success. He was awarded school colours for rugby and boxing and half colours for athletics. In 1951 he received a medal which reads "60 yds J3A and J3B". He fought in the final of the Northumberland Boxing Championship and won and was awarded a trophy which was taken away for inscription and he never saw again!

When Tony left school he began training as a Chartered Accountant. He moved from Newcastle to Leeds where he continued his studies. After passing his exams he first worked as company secretary in the motor industry, however, he never lost his desire to work abroad and eventually fulfilled his ambition and went to Tripoli in Libya and Lagos, Nigeria where he worked for a total of 8 years.

Upon his return to the UK he became Managing Director of a software company. Ultimately Tony set up business on his own and became a Business Consultant. He enjoyed working for himself and was also able to continue his travels. After the Berlin Wall came down he travelled on the back of a motor bike to Eastern Europe to take part in a rally. His travels took him to many obscure places, usually inspired by the many books he read.

Tony kept in contact with the school and many of his friends. He was a great postcard writer and was responsible for reuniting many of his friends. He would recount stories of what they got up to in their youth and I have often seen his friends squirming in their seats with embarrassment. He was good fun with a very dry sense of humour.

Tony had numerous hobbies including rugby, fishing, ornithology, chess, travel, coin, book and postcard collecting.

Tony died at home peacefully in his sleep after a long illness. He coped with his illness the way he coped with life with humour and dignity. During his colourful lifetime he was to marry three times and have 5 children. He is survived by his third wife of 36 years, Moira, and four children.