

Obituary John Aislabie HILL

1915 – 2003

John Hill had a Kelly College background from birth, his four maternal uncles, the brothers Landon, all having been at the school. He himself was at Kelly from 1928 to 1933. He then enrolled at the Royal School of Mines, Imperial College, London. Following his qualifications there he went to Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) where he built a long and distinguished career in the Mining Industry

During the war John was commissioned in the Northern Rhodesia Regiment and saw service in Africa and Burma, following which his mining career resumed in Luanshya. Having been away for six years he was made to start at the bottom again. Almost immediately, being hourly paid, he was forced to join a strike, a thankless experience. Undeterred he became General Manager at Chibuluma in 1967 and later Vice President and Director of Operations of Roan Consolidated Mines.

He married Ruth Rayner who sailed in convoy from England to marry him in Cape Town in 1940. Ruth brought another Kelly connection to the family, her maternal Grandfather, Tom May, having been a much loved Housemaster of Courtnay.

John was always a keen games player and together with Ruth made a significant contribution to the sporting life of the town. Ruth, apart from being President of the Blind Society started the youth tennis and cricket clubs, while John became President of the Golf and Cricket clubs and sometime Tennis champion. He laid out the first cricket pitch in Luanshya, which was said to be the finest in Northern Rhodesia.

John is survived by his 3 children, Rupert, Peter and Jane