

# OBITUARY

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W. Colwill OBE

15<sup>th</sup> October 1930 – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016

It is with much sadness that we record the death of W (Bill) Colwill who passed away in the early hours of the 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016, in Wexham Hospital, Slough.

Bill was held in high regard in the hockey world both in the United Kingdom and across the Hockey playing countries in all parts of the World. He built a network of friends wherever he went and these contacts enabled him to keep in touch with developments of the game and players whether in Australia, Argentina, India or Europe. He was immensely keen on the development of young players, which was a shared goal of Derek Higgins, which resulted with the creation in 2004 of the Higgins Group Plc UK Youth Awards for the Under 16s & 18s Boys and Girls Awards. It gave him much pleasure just a few months ago to see four previous winners appearing in the 2016 Great Britain Gold Medal-winning team at the Rio Olympics.

Bill's love for hockey started with his school days at Tavistock Grammar School in Devon and his highlight was when he played in goal for Devon when the renowned England player Frank Reynolds was in the same team. Bill joined the Civil Service culminating in a career and a final posting to the Cabinet Office. During this period, he worked under Bernard Ingham, who was the Press Secretary to Margaret Thatcher.

Long hours and an everlasting work load brought an end to his playing days, but he soon qualified as an umpire becoming a much sort after Southern County Umpire, who adjudicated at all London League Fixtures. At the same time, he was invited by *The Independent* to become their Hockey Correspondent. His coverage of National League games, the domestic scene and international tournaments was the beginning of his world-wide circle of friends and knowledge.

Bill kept meticulous records which became an important source of information for all those who required accurate facts. Together with Chris Moore, Sidney Friskin and Pat Rowley, he formed the Hockey Writers' Club. In addition, he served for many years as the Treasurer of the Sports Journalists' Association.

He will be missed by all who knew him. His wife Jean died in 2010 but is survived by his son Peter, to whom we send our heartfelt sympathies.

Maurice Kittrell