

“It is with great sadness that I tell you of Eric’s passing peacefully early on Thursday 25 June, 2020 at home.

It was Eric’s wish that he be cremated and not have a funeral. He suffered much during the last seven years with great fortitude and uncomplainingly. Nevertheless, his death came as a great shock.

I will miss him and am grateful for all the wonderful times we had together over our eighteen years of marriage”

Eric and I go back a long way in the Rhodesian Air Force – he became my boss in 1968 , and was a great mentor to me during my early career.

He was also in those days a very keen Round Tabler and used to organise the annual Donkey Derby and other fundraisers. When he left the Air Force, he went into the personnel business with Mike Daffy and they had a regular, and popular, Saturday morning broadcast on RBC. This was a novel concept, and probably the first time a personnel agency had taken to the airwaves in Rhodesia.

In later years when he moved to Johannesburg, he was also in the personnel business with Chico Sales and I used to see him from time to time. We were instrumental in getting the first Rhodesian Air Force reunion together at the Inanda Club, which ended up with us being invited not to come back!

It was Eric who introduced me to RAFOC and brought me as his guest to Lunch back in 1982. I also recollect attending, with Eric and many others, AVM Harold Hawkins Requiem Mass in St Theresa’s Rosebank. Harold Hawkins was a Past Chairman of RAFOC. He had served in the RAAF during the Second World War, rose to Chief of the Air Staff of the Royal Rhodesian Air Force from 1965-69, and later served as the Rhodesian Diplomatic Representative in South Africa.

We had not seen Eric at the Club functions for a good number of years due to his progressive illness.

Our sincere condolences go to Stella in her loss. We salute his memory, and we will remember him!

Written by Bruce Harrison