

EULOGY to PHILIP NIGEL LING 1949 – 2021

Nigel was born 24th May 1949 and grew up with a sister in Goole. His father was a train driver

Throughout his life Nigel was a bit of a train enthusiast and given that he grew up in England's most inland port it's easy to say how he first became interested in all things maritime and it really was a case of trains & boats & planes as Nigel once owned his own glider for many years.

Following on with his glider interest, Nigel was also a member of the North York Moors Ridge Soaring Club, a model glider club based at the Hole of Horcum. At the 1995 AGM he volunteered as stand-in for the position of Secretary for a period of 1 year - 26 years later he was still doing that same role! He negotiated with the NYMPA over several Licence renewals and also with our Insurance Company Zurich. A hard act to follow!!

As a highly qualified and much experienced marine surveyor — Nigel's work was clearly more than just a job it was his way of life. Sue, his partner, did explain some of Nigel's responsibilities and achievements in his career working for such organisations as the MOD and doing salvage work , travelling far and wide. So there are a great many highlights to his career

Much for Nigel to have been proud of such as the many years he dedicated to the Coastguard during which he got to meet his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in Withernsea. Another of his proudest moments would have been when he was one of 11 Coastguards to attend a remembrance day parade in London in 2009 for the Coastguards Centenary parade at Westminster Abbey.

In more recent years Nigel took on a voluntary role as Chairman of the Bridlington Harbour Commissioners, again something I'm sure he was immensely proud of and something else he committed 100% to described by the Harbour Master as a workaholic. Away from work Nigel's passion was cricket. Sue tells me that wherever he went he always had his pads and his whites in his car just in case of the possibility of a game. He'd travel many miles if he felt there was a chance of a game and just as he was in his working life Nigel was clearly highly thought of in the cricketing world.

It was whilst playing cricket for the Yorkshire Ridings at Lutterworth, Leicestershire , Nigel became un-well and had to be rushed to hospital where he suffered a stroke and where he eventually passed away on the 30 Aug 2021.

In a letter from the cricket club they say "Yorkshire Ridings owe Nigel a great deal of debt as we would not exist without his efforts he established Yorkshire Ridings as a county team, He was originally captain and, up until his death remained the club's chairman and county representative. Nigel's commitment to playing any game of cricket was total. Over the years Nigel played for a huge number of teams both league and friendly, all of whom will have fond memories of a unique man. Latterly, Nigel played his representative cricket with Leicestershire, who provided him with the opportunity to play the over 70's.

On the field, his sense of humour was always to the fore when doing what he loved, he'd walk down the wicket and start discussing something as bizarre as quantum physics and amuse himself that the opposition would think he was discussing batting tactics.

In 2017 Nigel was honoured to be chosen to manage the England over 70's tour of Australia. The following year he took on the role in his usual highly enthusiastic and uncompromising way. Finally the tribute reads Above all Nigel was loyal with an unerring commitment to Yorkshire Ridings and Leicestershire.....he will be impossible to replace, we will truly miss Nigel, Though we are better people by having known him. Rip. Our teammate and friend, our continued participation in cricket in our latter years owes much to himYorkshire Ridings"

Nigel & Sue met in the local pharmacy in Hedon where she was working at the time it was a Christmas time. Nigel was a very polite customer who smiled and said hello and not long after that first

encounter, Sue received a parcel which had Nigel's business card on the front and a message that said "thank you for your smile and remembering my name". They spoke to each other on that particular Christmas day and the rest as they say is history

A good history I think. It's fair to say over the past 8 years or so Sue has learned more about all things maritime than she would ever have imagined as well as cricket much to his credit, Nigel somehow managed to mix work and pleasure and turn it into an adventure for them both

Sue has asked me to read the following tribute to Nigel a personal & professional tribute written by Dr. Anthony Wells from his home in Virginia - in the USA

It says – "Mr. Nigel Ling, a fine marine engineer, great patriot & human being the passing of Nigel ling witnessed not just the loss of a fine human being and extraordinarily capable marine engineer, the United Kingdom also lost an incredible public servant whose contributions have never been publicly acknowledged, or indeed made known to the British public

Dr Wells says I first came to know Nigel well over forty years ago. In addition to being a gregarious, sociable, and hugely likeable person he put his great engineering and ship knowledge to the benefit of British intelligence at a time when the United Kingdom was at the height of the cold war, and the Soviet Union was a serious threat to the UK in ways which the greater British public had no knowledge.

Nigel put his incredible knowledge, skills, time, and energy at the disposal of a program that was in the vital national interests of the United Kingdom. The Nato Allies, and the Five Eyes intelligence community,

Nigel helped in the tracking of what may be generically described as the unconventional uses of the soviet and Warsaw pact merchant fleet. One of the most insidious aspects of this was the clandestine insertion into the United Kingdom of the most undesirable types of soviet agents and their surrogates. These were long term undercover plants trained to penetrate the most sensitive of British facilities, organizations, and create networks and obtain intelligence separate from the traditional soviet KGB and GRU organizations.

Nigel Ling was invaluable in the North of England in assisting in our efforts to counter these threats, and in addition rendering overall inputs to various aspects of merchant shipping local movements and other technical domains.

Nigel remained a life long friend after I came to the United States to work permanently. We stayed close, and only very recently Nigel was instrumental with Admiral Lord West and I in bringing to public attention the wonderful work during World War Two of another fine Yorkshire person, Mrs. Gladys Lewis. Gladys worked at Bletchley Park during World War Two. Nigel was simply wonderful in working with Lord West to both celebrate Gladys' 98th birthday this year and also have the official historian and archivist at GCHQ record for posterity her great contributions to the war effort.

This is symptomatic of Nigel, as a terrific caring and compassionate human being, and also public servant of the highest order. It has been truly a privilege to know and work with Nigel.

Nigel will be sorely missed and we all send our deepest condolences to his wonderful partner, Susan Bailey. Thank you for your wonderful life Nigel. You were the best of the best".
Dr. Anthony Wells - The Plains, Virginia. USA,

Finally, Nigel was described as extremely thoughtful, immensely caring, helpful and selfless
Given his career it's no surprise to hear that he was a very well organised man always smart ~ a collar & tie man , unless Sue could convince him otherwise.
Nigel was without doubt a true gentleman.