

In Memoriam

Rudi Hubert, 1920-2007

IDSF Honorary Life General Secretary Rudi Hubert died of pneumonia on November 10, 2007 at home in Kirchheim, near Munich, Germany, after some years of failing health and several weeks in hospital He was 87.

Born in 1920, Rudi Hubert was an athlete from his youth, recalling proudly in old age how at 16 he participated in a youth athletes' camp just outside the venue of the 1936 Summer Olympic Games in his home town, Berlin. He competed actively in DanceSport for eight years, beginning in 1946. He recalled years later that in those hard economic times, he bought his first catsuit from a costume pawnshop, and that his partner's dress was made from the living-room curtains!

In 1951 and 1953 he and his partner were among the top German competitors, reaching the highest class and dancing in the finals of the German Championships, at one point placing 6th in the German Standard Championships.

Mr. Hubert started his career as sporting official while dancing actively. In 1946 he became the Berlin DanceSport Association's officer for youth activities, which position he carried till 1973 with a lot of important initiatives and activities; he became the Association's Treasurer in 1949. In those days he had to perform double bookkeeping in East German and West German funds! He was always especially well-known for his initiatives in the area of Youth and Sports, an area always close to his heart. In 1972, together with Horst Koerner of Berlin, he developed the first rules for organizing Youth competitions, adopted in 1973.

In 1962 Mr. Hubert was elected to the Presidium of the German IDSF Member, Deutscher Tanzsportverband (DTV) and became its Press Officer. His straightforward, humorous style of reporting was his strength and contributed a lot to the rise of DTV and its international reputation, leading to his election as DTV Vice-President from 1982-92. In 1969 he suggested to DTV the concept for the German Dance Sport Medal, which has now been proudly worn by more than 100,000 dancers. Mr. Hubert did not follow any directives to create this medal; he said he just did it on his own initiative because it did not exist.

In 1973 Mr. Hubert moved to Bavaria to take a high-level position at the Bavarian Ministry of the Environment, where he worked until his retirement.

Wherever he went, DanceSport organizations jumped at the chance to put him to work; the Bavarian DanceSport Association was no exception. Delighted at his move, they elected and re-elected him their Vice-President from 1975-85.

In 1975 he was called to greater responsibilities as General Secretary of the then International Council of Amateur Dancers (ICAD), known since 1990 as the International Dance Sport Federation (IDSF). After suffering a stroke (from which he partly recovered), at the 2000 IDSF Annual General Meeting, held in his beloved Munich in May 2000, he retired voluntarily from IDSF after a quarter-century of continuous and very successful work for IDSF in that position, and was unanimously elected IDSF Honorary Life General Secretary on the spot.

In 1970, together with the then DTV President Herman Bolz, Mr. Hubert founded the now-famous magazine "Tanzspiegel" and was its chief editor until the end of 1974, finding many opportunities to show his stylistic talent in numerous future-orientated articles. In 1986 he became editor of "Tanzspiegel" which was published under the name of "Tanzen", and from 1987-93 he was editor in chief of the now again independent "Tanzspiegel".

Rudi Hubert's national and international Work was honored by numerous Awards, Honorary Memberships, and medals during his lifetime. But in his oft-expressed opinion, his most treasured reward was the gaining of a countless number of friends in the DanceSport Scene around the Globe. Every year he sent greetings to them at Christmas and New Year's emphasizing the importance of sporting friendship on the competitive floor and across national boundaries. A former prisoner of war, the events of 1939-45 deeply affected his thinking and made him determined that peace, friendship and understanding should prevail as much as possible wherever he was active and responsible. During 54 years of service to DanceSport he never fought with bitterness and never lost his sense of humour.

A modest, reserved man, Mr. Hubert disliked the spotlight, never applied for a position, and never intruded upon anyone's affairs.

IDSF and DanceSport the world over owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Rudi Hubert and his loving wife and tireless helpmate Margit, who survives him, who cared for him for many years and ably assisted him seven days a week when he was IDSF General Secretary, and in whose arms he died at home, according to his last wishes. Up to the end he was interested in worldwide DanceSport affairs.

With deepest sorrow, and on behalf of those countless dancing friends he so treasured, IDSF extends to her and his other family members our heartfelt sympathy and loving thanks.

According to Rudi's final wishes, no funeral will be held for him.

Werner J. Braun (Germany) and Jim Fraser (Canada)



Photos taken by IDSF Communications Director Dr. Johannes Biba on the occasion of the 2006 IDSF Annual General Meeting in Wels. Austria.

