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Obituary Rob van Ree

An obituary by LEEKE VAN DER POEL

It is with great sadness we announce that Rob van Ree, for 23 years a Member of the Board and Treasurer of the Hydrographic Society Benelux (HSB), passed away on the 16th of July 2023. Rob was Senior Lecturer Hydrography at the Maritiem Instituut Willem Barentsz on Terschelling, The Netherlands.

Mit großer Trauer geben wir bekannt, dass Rob van Ree, 23 Jahre lang Mitglied des Vorstands und Schatzmeister der Hydrographischen Gesellschaft Benelux (HSB), am 16. Juli 2023 verstorben ist. Rob van Ree war Senior Lecturer für Hydrographie am Maritiem Instituut Willem Barentsz in Terschelling, Niederlande.

Rob was dynamic in his mind, thinking outside the standard patterns and did not walk away from difficult aspects in the development of (his) plans.

If a board member mentioned some reservations, the enthusiasm of Rob with a »yes we can do«-mentality was many times enough for all to put their shoulders into support of the proposal.

Rob did not only have ideas, he realised them (most times).

Rob was a great advocate of socialising e.g. after board meetings. He loved Indonesian food and to be assured of that he often reserved the tables himself. The »brilliant« ideas we had during those happenings were written down on beer mats and serviettes and later on made into »official« minutes to prevent losing the ideas ☺.

Examples of his commitment and work are the HYDRO conferences organised by HSB. Rob was,

with his experience, the spider in the web between the project team and HSB to bring things to a positive conclusion and to meet the objectives (set by Rob himself ☺): »neither a big financial loss nor substantial earnings«.

For quite some years Rob was HSB's representative at the IFHS-Board meetings, which he loved to do.

Rob became involved with hydrography during his compulsory service at the Hydrographic Service of The Netherlands. Rob lived for hydrography and leaves a legacy of generations of students who have enjoyed and learned a lot of his enthusiasm and active involvement. How lucky you are as student with an enthusiastic passionate instructor.

In 2019 Rob resigned, at his request, as Treasurer as well as Board Member due to upcoming health problems.

Author

Leeke van der Poel is
Chairman of the Hydrographic
Society Benelux (HSB).

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Rob is onder zeil
naar de eeuwige oceaan
hij heeft een prachtig leven gehad
en had nog wel even willen blijven.

ROB VAN REE

★ 16 juni 1956 † 16 juli 2023

Lettie van Ree
Robbert
Rianne
Bas

**De uitvaart vindt aanstaande zaterdag 22 juli om 14.30
plaats in crematorium HaskerPoort in Oudehaske,
waar we afscheid nemen van Rob.**
Geen bloemstukken.

**Correspondentie adres: IMRobvanRee@gmail.com
Adres crematorium: Haskerpoorte 2, Oudehaske.**

Rob had been 23 years in the Treasurer function, an absolute record and not a single dissonance by HSB-members when the rule of a maximum of nine years in a function was sidelined neglected by the Board. By reason of his many and outstanding merits Rob became an Honorary Member of HSB.

It was not only hydrography which interested Rob: he was blessed with a sharp and inquiring mind. For example every Board meeting he had a side topic which interested and enthralled him and he informed us with his enthusiasm about his thoughts.

He had a love for sailing and a drive to understand the theoretical aspects of things. How to maximise the sailing speed and his optimistic spirit came together, when already diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, in buying an open sailing dinghy (Olympic Flying Dutchman class) with overdue maintenance required. He started enthusiastically making plans to restore the boat to a fine racing

sail boat again. Alas, limited by his health, he could not finish this project.

Rob was not lucky with his health, initially suffering from cancer from which he was cured. Later in life he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease which he managed but then, sadly, the cancer struck again, which proved to be the cause of his death.

The death notice has a text typical of Rob:

*Rob has set sail
To the eternal ocean
He has had a wonderful life
And would have liked to stay a while*

Rob will be dearly missed by all those who had the good fortune to have to know him.

May they find the strength to live with this loss of a very kind person. //

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