**Obituary Rob van Ree,**

16th June 1956 – 16th July 2023

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.

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 realized them (most times).

Rob was a great advocate of socializing 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’s organized 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.
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 9 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. E.g. 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 maximize 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.

Leeke van der Poel,