WORLD GRAND MASTERS ASSOCIATION

Founded in 2002

Jaap Quarles van Ufford - my great friend and colleague

Jaap has an excellent hockey pedigree in that his grandfather was President of FIH for 20 years (1946-66) and Jaap himself had held various positions in Dutch hockey both as a player and as an umpire. His home club Klein Zwitserland hosted the highly successful WGMA 2014 World Cup in The Hague and Jaap was invited to join the Board of WGMA at the end of that year. He had previously taken on the role of Senior Umpires Manager for WGMA but now became Technical Director, succeeding Wim van Noortwijk who had been appointed President in succession to Peter Child. Jaap was a natural in the role and, with an extremely well organised mind, he became the brains behind WGMA events.

He realised that the enjoyment of tournaments was based on teams playing enough hockey with a fair distribution of games both in terms of timings and use of the main pitches. Jaap's strength was in anticipating the reactions of teams ahead of the publication of a match schedule. Each team's programme was individually edited to see whether there were any grounds for complaint and by the time the schedule was published any potential problems had been dealt with. Should there be any subsequent issues during a tournament Jaap was always there beside the TD to advise.

Jaap was also at the heart of the registration process, and this was organised in a way that made it difficult for teams to back out after paying their entry fees well in advance. With the support of the Board, venues and dates for forthcoming World and European Cup competitions were able to be announced at the end of the previous event, at least two years in advance, giving everyone time to prepare.

During their time together Jaap and Wim van Noortwijk, and later John Willmott, formed a team that created some memorable events and brought enjoyment to both players and supporters over a number of years throughout the world - Singapore, Australia, South Africa and venues throughout Europe. Sadly we have lost both Wim and John but Jaap will continue to be an *eminence grise* and will act as a consultant to WGMA helping to ensure that the enjoyment of Grand Masters hockey continues into the future.

Adrian Stephenson
Former Secretary WGMA

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