



HEINZ MEURER

President i ICSC

## Obituary on Heinz Meurer (1928 – 2008)

We regret that our Honorary President of I.C.S.C., Heinz Meurer, passed away at the age of 79 years on May 18th 2008. It is a very, very sad day for all who knew him as a cheerful, kind and sociable friend. In his committee work, he showed tact, diplomacy and loyalty with a no-nonsense attitude.

His first appearance on the I.C.S.C. Presidium was in 1956 and he hailed from East Germany. Ever since he was largely responsible for keeping the I.C.S.C. going from strength to strength during his 22 years of service. He was a strong leader and kept the standards of I.C.S.C. high. His record reads:-

1956 – 1958	Member of the I.C.S.C. Board.
1958 – 1964	General Secretary-Treasurer
1964 – 1978	President of I.C.S.C.
1958 – 1978	I.C.S.C. Bulletin Editor
1972	Organiser of 5th World Individuals Deaf Chess Championships, Leipzig
1990	Gold medal for outstanding service to I.C.S.C.
1990	Honorary President

It is a truly remarkable feat.

In the first issue of March 1959, he outlined the objectives:-

*“This information bulletin is designed to cultivate the ideas of chess as a valuable cultural heritage among the Deaf of the world. Its purpose is to form a connection between the country-members of I.C.S.C. and to tighten existing bonds between them as well as to help the aspiring I.C.S.C. to gain the necessary international reputation.”*

The fact that I.C.S.C. Bulletins still continue today is Heinz Meurer’s legacy. He bequeathed all his I.C.S.C. chess collection to the I.C.S.C. Archives for preservation.

Another important contribution by Heinz Meurer is his long negotiations with the F.I.D.E. and he announced in his speech on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of I.C.S.C. :-

*“The F.I.D.E. and the I.C.S.C. declare unanimously their conviction that a close cooperation will be useful given the mutual interest in the development and promotion of chess. They therefore unite as partners in the form of an association in which each partner remains legally, economically and technically independent.*

*The F.I.D.E. recognises the I.C.S.C. as the only official international federation for silent chess. Titles given by the I.C.S.C. will be confirmed by the F.I.D.E. This agreement is valid for an indefinite period. Changes and amendments require mutual consent. This agreement will become effective upon approval by the General Assembly of the F.I.D.E. and by the Congress of the I.C.S.C.”*

Today I.C.S.C. can be seen working hand in hand with F.I.D.E. and is once again another legacy of Heinz Meurer.

The full biography of Heinz Meurer can be found in the special 50th anniversary of I.C.S.C. handbook and is available on request through the office of I.C.S.C. Briefly he was born in Bad Durrenberg, Germany. He became deaf in 1937 and attended the Hall School for the Deaf in Saxony, Anhalt and left in 1943. After his two years’ apprenticeship, he worked as a clerk and book-keeper. He played for a hearing local chess club and joined the chess section of Leipzig Deaf Sports Club and also participated in sports. He was also active in the voluntary management of East German Deaf Sport. He studied at Leipzig College of Education and became a qualified teacher for sport. He was employed at the Leipzig School for the Deaf until his retirement in 1991. He encouraged Deaf youngsters to play chess and many of them played for chess clubs in Leipzig, Halle and Dresden.

In 1990 he was the President of German Deaf Sport Association (G.D.R.). After the reunification of East and West Germany, he moved to Essen and lived there with his devoted wife, Martina.

**Heinz Meurer truly served a life of usefulness. May he rest in peace.**

Our deepest sympathies go to his wife, Martina, Jurgen Meurer family, Gerald Meurer family and Angehorige.. We shall not forget Heinz Meurer.