

## INFORMATION BULLETIN

### Two stalwart members of the European Hockey family are honoured

At the EuroHockey Indoor Nations Championships, Women, Duisburg, Germany, last weekend, Mr. Martin Gotheridge, President of the EHF presented a Diploma of Merit to Baerbel Aichinger:



Baerbel is pictured with Martin Gotheridge, President European Hockey Federation and Stephan Abel, President, Deutscher Hockey Bund

Baerbel starting playing hockey in 1973.

She had a distinguished career as a player including being part of the German National team at the Los Angeles Games.

She then went on to umpire at the highest level, finishing her umpiring career as an Umpires Manager, giving of her time freely and with great enthusiasm to develop new umpires.

In addition she worked on EHF committees for many years. She remains serving the DHB on committee.

Baerbel endeavoured to pass the huge amount of knowledge that she built up as a player, umpire and umpires manager in all her work for hockey, and it is this commitment to excellence that has earned her this prestigious award.

During the same weekend, Mr.R.David Balbirnie, Hon. General Secretary during the Indoor Nations Trophy Women in Nymburk, Czech Republic, presented Jitka Rihova with an EHF Diploma of Merit:

Jitka started playing hockey in 1941. In 1953, she was one of the co-founders of the Hockey Club Řevnice near Prague, where she played until 1963.

In 1973, she started to work for the Czechoslovak Hockey Federation as a member of the International Committee where she continues in this position even to this present day in the Czech Federation. The EHF appointed Jitka, with her excellent language skills and knowledge of hockey, as an official from 1979-2008.

Jitka has been a key person in the organization of events held in the Czech Republic since 1988.

Jitka has certainly seen some changes in both hockey and Europe during her service to hockey, but it is without doubt that her ability to be flexible, honourable and ladylike in her dealings with everyone she has encountered that warrants this prestigious award.



**Pictured with Jitka are (l-r) Ludmila Pastorova and Jan Vymazal, Executive Board Members EHF, Mr.R.David Balbirnie, Hon. General Secretary EHF and Mr. Gino Schilders, President, Czech Hockey Federation**

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