

**We are saying goodbye to Tamás Hámori, one of the most dominant Hungarian and international tennis figures, who was also one of the greatest role models of our time**



Tamás Hámori passed away with unexpected suddenness on March 22<sup>nd</sup> due to a stroke, just a few days after his 77<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Hungarian Tennis Association lost one of their own and will provide funeral services for him. His immediate family will accompany him on his last journey on April 20<sup>th</sup>. After the news of his death, the president of the European Tennis Association nominated him for a featured posthumous “Tennis Europe Award - post human” award, recognising nearly 4 decades of successful work and accomplishments. Even though this title doesn’t officially exist, he acted as an ambassador to the sport. He lived for the sport with constant commitment not only in Hungary, but all over the world. Tamas’s life was tennis, he was a national team player multiple times, a domestic and international professional coach, a competition founder director and a sports diplomat as well. His son and his father have also played tennis on a professional level.

Looking at his tennis results, he was in the top 10 adult leaderboard, he won half a dozen podium finishes in individual and in teams competitions in the colors of Honvéd Budapest, and he was also part of the of Galea Cup national team and fought himself into the top eight in the college world championship. After graduating from the College of Physical Education’s faculty of training he was Algeria's youth national team coach. His work was recognized and honored in 1980 by Huari Bumedian. Following this he actively helped the Hungarian players’ preparation under the presidency of Istvan Gulyas Sr. He was especially proud that amongst his students was his son Bence Hamori who was junior Hungarian champion and national team player, and together they’ve won the Father-Son Championship twice. Bence eventually became a successful businessman after years of attending and graduating from a US university with a sports scholarship.

*We may be grateful for more to Tamás Hámori who spoke several languages perfectly.*

At the European Tennis Association he continuously filled in high level positions for decades from 1987. He was the president of the Senior Committee between 1993-96, from 2005 he

was given a mandate to administer and help the development committee's work until 2023. Alongside this, he worked in the International Tennis Federation's (ITF) monetary, senior and Olympic committee.

As a result of his successful international work at the end of the 1980s, there were 3 years when the Hungarian Tennis Federation was able to apply and win close to 100.000 dollars. Due to this the Hungarian Tennis Federation was able to hold the first professional cash prize tournament within the Eastern-Central European countries. This 25.000 dollar satellite tournament introduced Hungary into the international mainstream, not to mention that our players were given the opportunity to compete and earn ATP points without having to spend a significant amount of money on travel and accommodation. This aid provided enough financial resources to train our talented young players and to enroll them to international competitions, and in addition it provided for umpires' training and development.

Tamás Hámori, until his death, for nearly four decades has been a permanent guest and international representative of the Hungarian Tennis Federation, where he fulfilled the vice-president position at the end of 1980s. He was focused solely on the profession, he sought cooperation, teamwork, and strived to make sure he would listen to other people's opinions. On top of all that Tamás Hámori was the founder and president of the Hungarian International Lawn Tennis Club, and the Progressive Tennis Foundation that was set out to embrace talents of the sport and find patrons in the 90s.

In 2015, at the ITF general assembly held in Santiago de Chile in recognition of development of international tennis life for nearly four decades of work awarded him the greatest honor, the Award for the Services of the Game, as the first Hungarian recipient.

An important part of Tamás's life was also linked to tennis and business: in 2005 he launched the National Manager Tennis Championships, the Manager Open (patent), which is still successfully running and is much loved. It was intended to provide a unique opportunity for domestic businessmen and their partners to preserve healthy life, to spend leisure time usefully, to increase competitive spirit, and last but not least to establish friendly and / or business relationships. In the sixteen years of the series that Tamás dreamed of, created and personally managed, the tournament became a well recognized brand in the Hungarian tennis and business life. The success stemmed from the creator and tournament director's life philosophy that placed teamwork in the forefront. At this tournament only doubles competed, and as Tamás Hámori said: "The doubles competition is real team effort, here we have to help each other." The managers knew that if the vibe is not good at a company, then the results will also be missing.

It is important to highlight that Tamás Hámori's work intensity in the sports professions went far beyond tennis, since in the former Ministry of Sports, working in the Department of International Relations at four Olympics and in several world competitions, he participated as a representative of the Hungarian Olympic team. In the company of Tamás Rohonyi and Sándor Dávid, he played a key role in bringing Formula 1 to Hungary, thanks to which Bernie Ecclestone chose Hungary as the first race in Eastern Europe in 1986. Tamás was one of the co-founders of the Hungarian Sports Management Society, and was a permanent guest lecturer at the University of Physical Education.

Tamás has always helped and served the sport without any self interest! He helped then and there where his knowledge, experience and assistance was needed. He always deeply believed in the success of joint work, and that helping one another is the only beneficial and possible

way to achieve outstanding results. His diverse sport expertise, business and an extremely wide network of friends, alongside with his empathic skills can serve as an example to the younger generation on how important human contacts and relationships are. He was able to open doors with his open-hearted, natural negotiation skills and professional knowledge.

A person is always measured by his total performance, in both business and private life, one must strive for perfection - was his motto and he taught this in his surroundings!

The world lost a true believer and a real gentleman.

We embrace Tamás Hámori's words, life philosophy and memory forever.