

Joppe Douwes – on behalf of the TCFE & TCUGB

When Epi van de Pol called me on the morning of February 27th to tell me of the sudden death of Joppe, my first reaction was disbelief then a profound sympathy for his colleagues at STN, his family and friends and especially Petra.

Over the last few years they became well known at Tai Chi events around Europe as a highly effective team in both a professional sense and in that of a devoted couple. I had heard how they had totally re-organised the Dutch Open Tai Chi Championships and was invited by Joppe to see for myself as their guest. It was one of the most enjoyable competitions thanks largely to their expertise and enthusiasm.

More recently it was a pleasure to see them demonstrate sword applications together with humour and professionalism at Nils Klug's event in Hannover. Old colleague Ronnie Robinson of the Tai Chi Union for Great Britain (TCUGB) told me that he had asked them to teach at Tai Chi Caledonia next year. Joppe had been nominated to be Vice Chairman of the Taijiquan and Qigong Federation for Europe (TCFE) and it is certain he would have been elected and done his very effective best. He was in his prime.

In some ways the measure of the man is that though seriously ill he travelled to Hannover with Petra and played a full part in all aspects of the event. On his return home and only a few days before his death, in his role as Technical Committee member, he found time despite his illness to go through the draft rules of the TCFE Championships in Sweden this November and make many helpful suggestions.

His passing at a shockingly young age is a great loss to the martial arts and internal arts community in Holland and Europe. He was much liked. He will be much missed.
Requiescat in Pace.

Dan Docherty
President TCFE
Chairman TCUGB