



Serge Holc

07.04.1937 – 31.01.2022

As long as we live, they will live too,
they are now a part of us,
if we remember them.

Jewish prayer

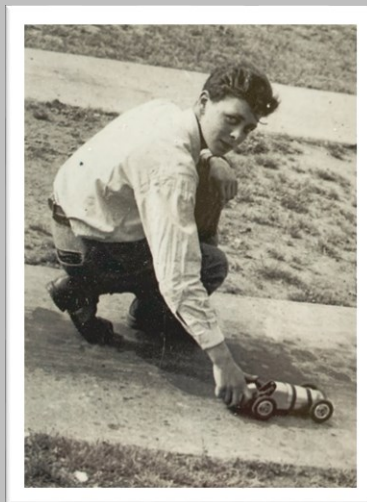
Dear model sport friends

On 31.01.2022 the sad news has reached us that our dear friend Serge Holc has passed away after a long illness and has found his final peace. Many of my childhood memories are closely linked to Serge, so I feel a deep wish to look back on Serge's life and commemorate him.

The name Serge Holc is inseparably linked to speed model car racing. With his love for our sport and his enthusiasm, Serge has written many stories, all linked by his mischievous smile and his unmistakable sense of humor. It is with that unmistakable smile on my face that I write these lines and will always remember him.

1951, Serge is 14 years old and roaming the flea market on Boulevard Richard Lenoir in Paris with his friend Robert Balzac when a small combustion engine catches his attention. After twenty minutes of intense negotiating, Serge is the proud owner of his first model engine. Full of enthusiasm, Serge sets about revising the engine. The moment the little engine runs for the first time, his lifelong passion for model engines is established.

A short time later, his friend Robert bought a tethered model car, which he began to assemble without much commitment and quickly lost interest in it. When Serge sees the small model car, a 2.5cc Cisitalia, for the first time at his friend's house, his eyes light up. Before long, Serge has convinced his friend to swap the little model car for his model engine. Barely in his hands, the little Cisitalia is assembled and waiting for its first start.



1952, Serge is 15 years old and joins the AMCF (Auto Modele Club de France). He begged his mother to let him drive with three other Frenchmen to the first European championship for tethered model cars in Geneva.

With 136 km/h, Serge finished 9th in the 10cc class. To this day, we don't know if the tears in his eyes were due to joy or the ether used in fuel at the time.

61 years later, the circle closes again in Switzerland. The 15-year-old boy has become a 76-year-old elderly gentleman. Already severely marked by his Parkinson's disease, Serge contests his last World and European Championships in Basel in 2013. With the same

enthusiasm, joy and verve as when he was 15 years old, he finished with 331 km/h, 7s. In between are one World and four European Championship titles.

In the summer of 1983, the day happened that Serge would later describe as the best day of his life. He became world champion.

His daughter was not entirely innocent of this. She had told the school long before that her father was world champion, without suspecting that she would be right.

That one day at the World and European Championships in Gallarte, Italy, in the summer of 1983 was much more significant than Serge could have imagined at that moment. Not only were his friends Philippe Novak (2.5cc) and Christian Schmutz (5cc), with whom he would become known as the "trio infernale", also standing on the podium with him as world champion, but there was also a man, unknown at the time, standing on the fence as a spectator, with whom he would later form a lifelong deep friendship, Paul-Otto Ströbel.



It was already known that Serge could celebrate. Monsieur "Champignon" du Monde, as he was affectionately called after his world championship title, repeated his success in 1989 in Minsk, Belarus, and became European champion for the second time. The European champion was toasted with champagne and vodka until he lost consciousness and had to be carried to his room.

This was followed by countless other successes and two more European Champion titles in Kapfenhardt in 1995 and Basel in 1997.

With his mischievous smile, his dry humour, his ambition and his dapper appearance, always wearing the same white moccasin shoes, he burned himself deep into my childhood memories and was one of my childhood heroes throughout my life.

Now the Grand Monsieur of our sport has passed away and leaves a big gap.

Until the end, he went his way with dignity and without complaint, despite his serious illness, and remained faithful to our sport. In the last few years, during which his illness no longer allowed him to travel, not a single race went by without Serge immediately asking about the results.

In 2014, I was able to follow in his footsteps as European champion. Shortly afterwards, I received the greatest honour that could be bestowed upon me, a letter of congratulations from Monsieur "Champignon" du Monde, Serge Holc.

On our last visit in October 2021, Serge had lost none of his pride and majesty. As we were about to leave, he motioned for us to remain seated and disappeared into his room with the words "la visite continue", only to reappear shortly afterwards with his broad mischievous smile and more photos of days gone by.



Michael Schmutz
FEMA Präsident