

**CAUGHT ON FILM**

# German brokers out in force in Hamburg for annual meal

Geoff Garfield Hamburg

Shipbrokers' associations in Germany embrace far more than just chartering and sale-and-purchase (S&P) players.

So it was no surprise to see an eclectic mix of faces when around 100 people sat down at the Hafen Klub on the Hamburg waterfront for dinner following the annual meetings of the local and national organisations.

Unlike their London counterparts, port agents and liner agents, including subsidiaries of international liner companies, are all members.

The German representatives of Hyundai Merchant Marine, NYK Line, APL, China Shipping, CMA CGM, K Line and Mediterranean Shipping Co (MSC) were all there alongside plenty of well-known broking figures from Hamburg and further afield.

"It works," said Thomas Rehder, who stepped down after seven years as chairman of Vereinigung Hamburger Schiffsmakler und Schiffsagenten (VHSS), the Hamburg shipbrokers' and agents' association.

Rehder, of containership owner and broker Carlsen Rehder, says

the broad membership gives the VHSS the strength to speak on behalf of the industry.

Taking over as chairman is Christian Koopman of German liner agent Peter W Lampke. Terminal charges, pilotage costs and security issues are among the hot topics concerning both independent agents and those representing liner companies, he says.

Rehder is not disappearing from the VHSS top table. Bimco-style, he will remain on the board for another three years. Koopman has for some time been his deputy.

National association Zentralverband Deutscher Schiffsmakler (ZVDS) used to hold a separate dinner at varying locations in Germany but in recent years it has teamed up with the VHSS for the meal.

Guest of honour at the Hafen Klub was Axel Gedaschko, Hamburg's senator for commerce. ZVDS chairman Volkert Knudsen, of Kiel-based ship agency Sartori & Berger, presented Gedaschko with a model of the cargoship *Bleichen*, which was built toward the end of the 1950s and is one of several vessels being preserved by the Hamburg Maritime Foundation.



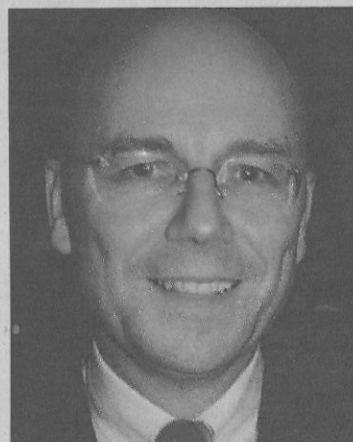
**HAMBURG DINNER:** ZVDS chairman Volkert Knudsen (left) presents a model of the 1950s-built cargoship "Bleichen" to Axel Gedaschko, Hamburg senator for commerce and guest of honour. Photos: Geoff Garfield



**HANDING OVER:** New VHSS chairman Christian Koopman (left), who is replacing Thomas Rehder (right) after seven years in the role



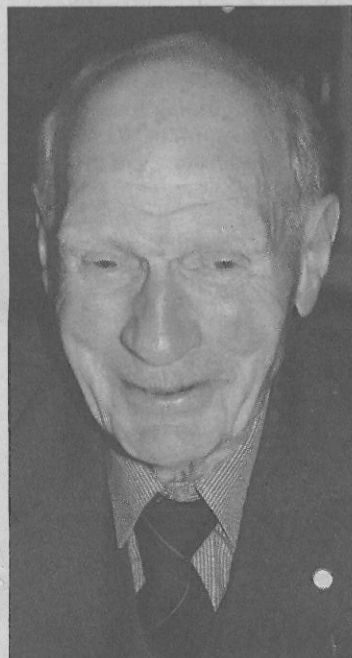
**IN ATTENDANCE:** (From left) Hans Jurgen Schonfeld of Yang Ming Shipping Europe GmbH, Joachim Gwosdz of Hyundai Merchant Marine (Deutschland) GmbH, Bolko V Pfeil of Topos Maritim and Gunter Boldt of Hyundai Merchant Marine (Deutschland) GmbH.



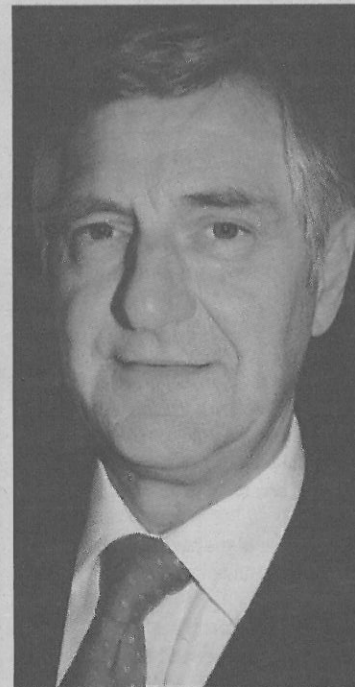
**GUEST:** Christoph Bruhn of Bruhn Shipbrokers



**ON HAND:** Norman Zurke of Unternehmensverband Hafen Hamburg (left) and Matthias Soyka of Hafen Report



**ENJOYING THE EVENING:** Former VHSS chairman Dr Hans Helmut Killinger



**CELEBRATING:** VHSS director Klaus Bultjer



**SMILES ALL ROUND:** (From left) Sabine Hagewald of Bremen Overseas Chartering & Shipping and Frederik Naumann of Sartori & Berger with Galina Kasch and Sylvia Scheper of ZVDS