

Jean Paul Meyer 1936-2018

Jean Paul Meyer was born in Paris on 13 December 1936, the son of Georges Meyer and Paulette Blum. He was bright, obtaining a License in Physics at the Faculté des Sciences at an early stage, followed by a Degree in Engineering at the École Supérieure Optique the following year.

He became the Finance Director of the Société française de Transports et Entrepôts Frigorifiques, a position he held until 1978. That same year he became the Chief Editor of Le Bridgeur, and dedicated a huge part of his life to it. Two years later, he took over as the Chief Executive Officer. Although he 'retired' in 1998 he continued to be involved as an advisor, member of the editorial board and correspondent. He wrote extensively in the French press, amongst other things being the correspondent of L'Express, from 1977.

Earlier this year he celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife Michelle - they were married on the ninth of February 1968. Their daughter Karine is the General Manager of Le Bridgeur, and like all parents, they delighted in their grandchildren, Jules and Nicolas.

I cannot tell you when or how he developed an interest in bridge, most likely it was in his student days, but it soon became apparent that he was a gifted player. Of his innumerable victories, perhaps the sweetest was to win the European Pairs Championship in Paris in 1987 with Gérard Leroyer. Outstanding at the table he was equally brilliant away from it, serving. Two terms as Vice-President of the French Bridge Federation. He was President of the Ethics and Discipline Committee of the FFB and headed the European Bridge League's enquiry into the recent cases that propelled bridge onto the front pages of newspapers around the world.

He was an inspirational Captain, his many achievements in that field included leading France to the Bronze medals in the 1995 Bermuda Bowl.

He was superb analyst and inevitably, he became one of the best VuGraph Commentators, co-ordinating that with his experience as a Bulletin Editor for both the World Bridge Federation and the European Bridge League. In recent years the Bulletins, he helped to produce in Monaco for the Cavendish and the Winter Games became the benchmark by which other Bulletins should be judged

This deal comes from the 1987 Championships in Paris:

	♠	J 10 3 2		
	♥	K 9 6 5		
	♦	10 6 5		
	♣	J 3		
♠	A 5 4		♠	Q 9 8 6
♥	10 3		♥	Q 8 7 4 2
♦	K J 9 8 7		♦	3
♣	8 6 2		♣	K 10 7
	♠	K 7		
	♥	A J		
	♦	A Q 4 2		
	♣	A Q 9 5 4		

Jean Paul was South attempting to make 3NT after the lead of the ♥10.

He won in hand with the jack and played the ♣4 for the jack and king, East returning the ♦3 to West's jack. Declarer took the heart return with the ace and exited with the ♦Q. West won with the king and exited with a club, leaving the diamond suit blocked.

Declarer cashed four rounds of clubs to reach this position:

		♠ J		
		♥ K 9		
		♦ 10		
		♣ —		
♠ A 5	—		♠ Q 9	
♥ —			♥ Q 8	
♦ 9 8			♦ —	
♣ —			♣ —	
		♠ K 7		
		♥ —		
		♦ A 2		
		♣ —		

When he played a diamond to dummy's ten East could not spare a heart. It did not matter which spade he released; declarer could play the ♠J and one way or another he would score the two tricks he required to bring home the game.

He was a superb writer - his Editorials and articles in *Le Bridgeur* are the stuff of legend and he authored a number of books. His most recent, *Contrat Sous Garantie* will soon be published in English by Master Point Press. Looking on the web site of Le Bridgeur it describes the book like this:

It has the particularity of offering you problems for which a 100% solution exists. In other words, if you play well, you cannot fail.

In everything he undertook, Jean Paul Meyer never failed.

Adieu, mon ami.