

## **DAVID BIRMAN 1948 - 2020**

David was Israel's top bridge personality, excelling for over 50 years as a player, editor, coach, administrator and organizer.

He was born in Wroclaw Poland in 1948 and emigrated to Israel with his family when he was 9 years old. He was a qualified Industrial Engineer and University lecturer but found a University career boring and changed to a research position at the Institute for Transportation Management and Research, and was a consultant in logistics.

He was Israeli National Teams Champion over 10 times, National Pairs Champion 5 times, and Senior Teams Champion twice. He also won the Mixed Teams Championship playing with his wife Daniella.

Internationally he represented Israel in Junior, Open, Senior and Mixed events. His finest achievements were a Silver Medal in the European Teams Championship (1985) and Bronze Medal in the Bermuda Bowl (1992). In 2003 he was in the top European Pair in the inaugural European Transnational Pairs Championships. David was a regular member of the EBL Appeals Committee from 2000 to 2011.

David was Editor of the Israel Bridge Magazine from 1980 - 2002 and a long-time member of the board of the Israel Bridge Federation and Youth Committee. He will probably best be remembered as the coach of the Israeli Junior teams for over 40 years from 1975 to 2017 and was a key factor in the success of Israel teams in Junior events. Most of today's top Israel players are graduates of David's coaching efforts.

David's organizational efforts were second to none. For many years he was the organizer of the Israel Bridge Festival in Tel Aviv. In 1995, he combined his organizational skills with his bridge interests and instituted an annual Red Sea International Festival in Eilat which became very successful and one of the largest bridge festivals in the world. He also organized other bridge festivals in Israel.

He will be sorely missed by his many friends and Israel's bridge community. Heartfelt condolences to his wife Daniella (herself an international player), daughters Avivit and Moran, and son Alon, also a top international player, who is following in his father's footsteps.