

TOH PUAN NORELLA TALIB (1935-2021)

Our beloved President, Toh Puan Norella Talib passed away on 15 October 2021. Toh Puan was elected President of The Malaysian Contract Bridge Association in 1979, a position she held until 2021. This must be a record for being one of the longest serving President of a National Bridge Organisation. Under her leadership, MCBA took a more active part in regional and international bridge competitions; the Asean/South East Asia Championships, Far East/Asia Pacific Bridge Championships, Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships and the World Bridge Games (previously World Team Olympiads); several of which she participated as a player. MCBA also became an associate member of the Olympic Council of Malaysia during her tenure, and Malaysia was able to participate in multi-team sport events when bridge was included, such as the SEA Games and Asian Games.

Toh Puan was instrumental in the success of the many international tournaments organised by MCBA; the Far East Championships in 1986 and 2011, and nine Asean/South East Asia Championships between 1982 and 2019. The 1986 Far East Championships held in Penang is still remembered by many players as one of the most enjoyable they attended.

Toh Puan was very active in the local bridge scene and took part regularly in the local games and competitions. She won the 1989 & 1994 National Teams, 2001 Mixed Pairs, 2006 Individuals and 2014 Mixed Teams. Internationally, she represented Malaysia at the 1996 World Teams Olympiad, the Far East Championships from 1981 to 1986, and also at numerous Asean Championships. Her crowning achievement was winning the 1990 Asean Mixed Teams title held on home soil in Kota Kinabalu.

It was always a pleasure to play bridge with Toh Puan. She had a smile for everybody, be it partner or opponent and thoroughly enjoyed the social aspect, exchanging banter and jokes, something that has become increasingly rare in the fast-paced world of competitive bridge. “Always happy” is how one of the players described Toh Puan.

We thank Toh Puan for all that she had done for the bridge community in Malaysia. We will all miss her dearly, may she Rest In Peace. We offer our deepest condolences to her loved ones and share their loss.