



DICK SHEK (1950 -2023)

Dick Shek passed away in Ipoh on 15 December 2023 after a short illness. He had an illustrious bridge career in England before moving to Malaysia in 2008. The English Bridge Union has paid tribute to his achievements on their website www.ebu.co.uk so this Obituary will focus on his achievements in Malaysia and how he helped the Malaysian bridge community.

Dick was a World Bridge Federation ranked World Master. He has won almost every Malaysian national event he competed in; National Teams (2015, 2016); National Open Pairs (2017); Royal Lake Club/Selangor Congress Pairs & Teams (2015, 2017) and National Mixed Pairs (2019) the last notably with a student he taught for just a few months.

His international victories included the 2014 Asean Open Pairs held in Kuala Lumpur, the only time a Malaysian pair has won the event, and the 2017 Amazing Thailand Bridge Festival Open Pairs. Partnering Jens Rasmussen, he also qualified for the World Bridge Games Open Pairs semi-finals in both 2014 and 2016. Other achievements included second place at the 2013 China-Arab States International Invitational Teams and third place at both the 2015 Hongkong Intercity Swiss Pairs and 2017 Asia Pacific Championships Open Pairs. He coached the national team for several years and under his guidance, the Men's team achieved their best ever performance (second) at the 2019 South East Asia Championships.

He represented Malaysia at the Asia Pacific Bridge Championships in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017. Unfortunately, citizenship eligibility precluded him from playing in multi-sport events such as SEA Games or Asian Games when bridge was included. Nevertheless, he undertook the task of coaching the Men's team in the 2018 Asian Games, coming down from Ipoh to Kuala Lumpur regularly for training sessions.

Dick had tremendous table presence and often bring home some seemingly impossible contracts. He was teaching some students at the West Lake International School in Kampar when the pandemic struck and lessons were suspended. He remained steadfastly available even while based in Ipoh to answer any bridge related questions.

Dick led a fascinating life. He spent his early days in Taiwan and Hongkong before going to England for his studies where he took up bridge. He would regale many stories about his life, often mingled with historical personalities of that time.

Still, his number one interest was bridge. Besides being a top player, Dick was passionate about teaching bridge. When he learnt about his illness, he started to write his memoirs and notes for a system he devised. He was always willing to share his expertise and knowledge with those eager to learn.

The Malaysian bridge community send their deepest condolences to Dick's widow Susan and share her loss. The best way we can remember him is to become better players.