

## JULIUS BUTKOW .....“MR BRIDGE”

Julius Butkow was the Emeritus Chairman of the SABF. He was in fact MR BRIDGE.

We would not be in the position we are now in World Bridge, were it not for the time and effort put in by Julius.

During the Apartheid years 1981 -1991 when South African bridge players were barred from participating in international bridge, Julius was instrumental in inviting international players from the UK , Canada and the USA to this country; also the German and Taiwanese teams who participated in our local National Congress. He held trials in 1988 and sent 2 teams on a friendly organized bridge tour of Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

His ability to encourage large financial institutions to sponsor these teams was phenomenal and paved the way for re admittance to World Bridge.

Julius was born in 1933 and from an early age took an avid interest in many card games.

Bridge became his first choice and he won many national events partnering his brother Hymie.

They were in the Open team to represent SA at the then Bridge Olympiad in 1968.

As good a player as he was, Julius excelled as an administrator.

Before the advent of computer scoring, pre dealt boards and instant results, there was always a group of helpers competent and eager to assist with the organization of directing and scoring of events. His events ran without a hitch.

Social interaction at congress was paramount and Julius was the Master of Entertainment.

He was generous to a fault, he never refused to offer a helping hand, or handout to anybody in need.

Apart from his bridge life, he read widely, loved music particularly jazz, and was a soccer fan and a keen movie goer.