Suddenly I woke up and Jean Paul has disappeared, passed away without any sign . We are all struck dumb, without words only sadness.

Within the bridge community he was exceptional - a true figure. Let’s call him Mr. Bridge , you will understand why hereafter. Bridge was his passion and he was certainly the only one in the world who occupied all the positions anyone can imagine He was first the general manager of Le Bridgeur Group which included 3 shops ( 2 in France , 1 in Belgium ) a big mailing catalogue, and two monthly magazines. Chief editor , journalist  he truly loved the job technically with analysis and problems which he used later on to write some successful books.

However he loved also the political side giving his opinion on the management and policy of the national and international federations. Then he decided to go one step further and became himself an administrator of the French bridge federation as Vice President and chairman of the disciplinary Committee. Of course all this expertise was recognized internationally and he became the editor’s advisor, the commentary organizer for the WBF and EBL  where he published articles or commented himself.

But you know all this business was nothing in his eyes compared to playing Bridge. He was a many-times French champion and won with Gerard Le Royer the European pairs championship in Paris under the TV cameras of the main French channel TF1 .

Forty years of friendship , of cooperation most of the time very positive in all fields, business, federations, Playing  Partners, very few disagreements, and today I feel incredibly alone when I have to recognise that he will no more call me to chat a little about recent events or we will not share anymore our usual lunches or dinners.

We, I mean all bridge players, and I particularly will miss you Jean Paul. We will miss your talent, your presence even though we may meet you again somewhere sometime.

Our thoughts today are turned to Michelle his beloved  wife , Karine his daughter and successor at Le Bridgeur as well as his grandsons Jules and Nicolas to assure them of our sympathy and so that they are aware that they can count of me for anything, anytime, anywhere.

Rest in Peace Jean Paul - as you played Bridge in Peace

Jose Damiani

President Emeritus

World Bridge Federation