

## Panos GERONTOPOULOS

Panos Gerontopoulos is a native of and resides in Athens, Greece. He was educated in Thessaloniki, Greece (Surveying Engineer); Oxford, England (Master of Science); and Graz, Austria (Doctor of Technical Sciences) - and pursued an academic career at the Technical University of Athens.



Having learned bridge as a freshman, he developed an interest in the technical side of the game, and then in bridge administration and organization, as well as bridge journalism. He joined the EBL Youth Committee in 1978.

In the 70s, he was Greece's leading Tournament Director and got an international degree at the 1st EBL TD course (1982). The following year, he organized the 5th European Junior Camp in Greece. He was elected to the European Bridge League Executive Committee in 1985 and immediately assumed the chairmanship of the EBL Youth Committee.

Under his leadership, Junior bridge in Europe continued its growing course, and was enriched with the National Juniors' Officials' Congress (established as a biennial meeting in 1986), the European Junior Pairs Championship (established in 1991) and the European Schools Teams series at the Youth Championships (established in 1994). For all these achievements he was awarded the EBL Silver medal in 1991 and was IBPA Bridge Personality of the Year in 1995.

Panos Gerontopoulos was instrumental in the establishment of a WBF Youth Committee in 1985, and accepted the invitation of the WBF President at the time, Jaime Ortiz-Patino, to work for setting up the World Youth Team Championship (1987). He became a full member of the WBF Executive Council in 1991 and Chairman of the WBF Youth Committee in 1992.

In 1995, he proposed the incorporation of the European Junior Pairs and Camp in the World Junior Pairs Championship and World Junior Camp, which initiated a large-scale exchange of Juniors between Europe and North America every year. He also proposed the establishment of a World Junior Individual Championship, launched in 2004.

Mr Gerontopoulos was elected to the WBF Committee of Honor (the highest distinction in the world of bridge) in 2002.

He concluded his career in Youth Bridge in June 2007.