

Daniel Auby 1955 – 2007

Daniel Auby is dead. What can I say?

A profile has left us much too early and he leaves behind a grieving Swedish and global bridge community as well as a brother who was Daniel's only family. Daniel was only 52 years old when he passed away in his home a few days ago.

Some of you know Daniel from bridge championships over the last 17 years. Daniel started his international career with playing in Geneva 1990, followed by Albuquerque 1994 and Lille 1998. During this period he was a hang-around to the Swedish national team and the last ten years he has acted as NPC, coach, or slave to the team. He has many times enlightened the bulletin with reports from and beside the bridge tables.

My first encounter with Daniel was when he peeked into my scoring office 15 years ago and said that some people recommended me and wondered if we could play bridge together. "Why not?" was my reply to this person whom I hardly knew. This led up to the highlight of Daniel's bridge career, namely the bronze medal in the 1994 Rosenblum Cup in Albuquerque.

This period included a lot of training and pressure considering the 317 page system notes. The pressure was mainly on me since Daniel had written every letter of the document. Together we also provided a 72 page supplementary sheet. The thing was that Daniel originally was a lawyer and since Kokish had written "describe all bidding sequences up to and including the second bidding round" it was only to comply. Daniel and I spent many long nights writing.

One thing that should be mentioned is that his system's name was "Rather Natural" with 16-19 INT which to this day I still find an abuse of the word "natural". Later he switched to strong club and 4/6 of the the current Swedish open team play the system developed by Daniel.

Daniel's next step in his bridge career was the captaincy of the open Swedish team, something that lasted 1997-2001. Daniel introduced a number of previously unknown components to that captaincy – extensive system notes, bidding practice with monthly reports to the captain, and documented physical training.

Daniel has described this period of his life as one of the toughest times of his life, spending three hours in front of the computer every night dealing with miscellaneous team issues and trying to convince his bridge players (as he saw them) that he knew better what was good for them than they did. We all know the true nature of bridge players so I assume you can appreciate the difficulty in Daniel's mission.

Daniel was very black and white in his approach to life which was always a source of joy or despair depending on whether Daniel at the time was an ally or the enemy. This

became especially clear while playing board games – another of Daniel's favourite pastimes. These games could create the most fierce of fights where we were always friends after the game, happily analyzing the finer details of each player's strategy. Daniel was over at our place at least once a month for dinner and gaming. I fear this will not be the same in the future.

Daniel was very skilled at "politicking" to arrive at victory at these board games. One thing that I always pointed out was that Daniel never lied during his efforts of manipulating his fellow gamers. However, he occasionally forgot to include some parts of the truth.

Being a former lawyer, the accuracy of the rules was to Daniel what defined a good game. Undoubtedly holes in the rules were discovered, fought over, and finally in a democratic spirit voted through and set as a precedency. The outcome of the vote was carefully scribbled inside the rule-book for future use so that we could fight over something else the next time.

One of my personal Daniel top-5:s is the extension to the classical board game Risk which he found too simple. He simply decided to move the game into the late 20th century when he introduced intercontinental missiles! Daniel was very inventive and you never know what to expect.

As you understand Daniel had a true interest in bridge and games. There was much more to Daniel than that.

He started out aiming for a career as a teacher, learning history and religion at university. After a few years his father told him to go for a "real" job at which point he switched into law. After the law degree and a two-year session in court he switched into software where he spent the last 20 years as a software developer.

Classical music was another of his interests and regularly he arranged music quizzes. Another was sports. He once borrowed a sports stadium and arranged a decathlon just for the kick of having once done that. Not to mention the yearly summer party with a pentathlon of strange new physical games every year where pole-throwing is still my favourite.

It is riddle to me why Daniel has been taken from us. We will always remember him as the great and considerate friend he was.

Tomas Brenning

PS. There is a also a memory page set up with pictures on the internet at the following address:

www.swangames.com/main/Photos/Antalya_2007