



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

Election to the Executive Committee of the European Bridge League

Antalya – June 2007

Candidate: AnnaMaria Torlontano (Italy)

Awarded with the EBL gold medal in 1995
Awarded with the WBF gold medal in 2003
for her valuable and greatly appreciated service to women's
bridge

Married –2 Daughters –2 Grandchildren
Lives in Pescara –Italy
Studies: Law at the University of Rome

- European Bridge League (EBL) Executive Board
- Chairwoman of the EBL and WBF Women's Committees
- Chairwoman of the EBL and WBF Protocol Committees



Aims and Goals

The EBL and WBF Women's Committees have the responsibility of considering the role of Women in every sector of the Sport of Bridge.

The aims and goals are to promote Women's Bridge worldwide and to seek to ensure the integration of Women into the decision making process, not only in the EBL and WBF administration of the sports organization, but also in the field of Public Relations, in the Teaching and Tournament Directors' programmes and at Board Level within all the Federations affiliated to the International organisations, at exactly the same level as men.

Profile and social history of the candidate

1. Outside my bridge activities, I am a member of the International Inner Wheel Club of Pescara (association of Rotarian wives) as International Service Organizer.
2. I am one of the two women members of the Italian Cooking Academy, delegation of Pescara. The aim of this association is to study the problems of gastronomy and of Italian Cuisine – promotion of traditional values – historical research and its publication, as an expression of custom, civilisation, culture and science.
3. In 1958, before my involvement in the Bridge field, having an enormous interest in the growth and advancement of girls, I decided at this time to create an activity specifically for this purpose: a school of Classic Dance authorized by the Ministry of Education, unique in the Region, with teachers qualified by the Opera in Rome and by the Academy of State. This school is still in existence, and is very successful.
4. Member of the Executive Committee of the Music and Theatre Academy in Pescara.

Bridge Activities of the candidate

In 1975 I started my activities in the Bridge field when I was elected President of the Bridge Association in Pescara.

In 1978 I was elected to the Board of the Italian Bridge Federation. The President and the members of the board unanimously agreed that I should manage the Women's sector and also take on the role of Captain of the National Women's Team.

It was a very hard job, because in 1978, in Italy, there were only 8 women, top players, belonging to the National Team. They won many medals and titles in the International Championships –for example the World Teams Olympiads and European Women's Teams Championships. The other players were scattered in private houses or clubs. So, I had to start from scratch!

In brief, from 1979, the number of pairs competing in the Women's Pairs had risen to **340**, the number of teams to **182** and the participation in the Italia Cup, another event specifically for the Women teams was **138** teams.

Obviously, these numbers were and still are increasing year after year.

In 1985, I was elected in the Board of the European Bridge League. I was the first woman to be a Member of the Executive and, for many years, the only one.

The EBL President and the Members of the Board, knowing of my achievements in Italy, gave me the task of managing and organizing the Women Bridge Sectors in Europe, something that had not been attempted previously.

I formed the **European Women's Committee**, of which I was and still am, the Chairman: 5 members plus Sabine Auken as consultant to the Committee for technical advices.

In 1986, I organised the first European Ladies Pairs Championships which was extremely successful.

In 1992, I was elected as Delegate, representative of the European Bridge League, to the Board of the World Bridge Federation, where José Damiani, President of the WBF appointed me Master of Ceremonies and Chairman of the Hospitality and Protocol Committee of WBF, which position I still hold today.

In 1995, I was nominated Vice President of the European Bridge League.

Three years ago, the President of the World Bridge Federation, José Damiani, appointed me Chairman of the World Women's Committee, a new Committee within the World Federation.

During the last term **2003/2007**, I achieved a very important goal, in the fields of "**Communications & Information**" and "**Promotion of Women's Bridge**"

With the Members of the EBL and WBF Women's Committees, I created our WEB-SITES in the EBL and WBF Web Sites. Just by clicking on Category "**Women**", the Women Players can find any kind of information:

- Communications from the Chairman
- Composition of the Committee
- Calendar of Women Events
- Reports and pictures from the events
- **Women Stars** : History and biography of the most important players, both past and present-day.
- Prominent position of Women, as Players - Administrators- Teachers- Tournament Directors etc.. all of them regularly updated

And more we are able to integrate such information, sending personally to all the Women Players, at their e-mail addresses, a detailed brochure of the new events. We took care of collecting all their addresses during the Championships in which they participated. (700 at the moment)

Important consideration:

Since 1999, when the WBF became an International Sports Federation, in every document, whether in letters, reports, conferences or articles, I have stressed the importance of Women in every sector, in accordance with the policy of IOC. This concept is well specified in "Aims and Goals" at the beginning of this profile.

I was in contact with Anita de Franz and Katia Mascagni, who are responsible for the Women's sector in the IOC, and they have congratulated me, more than once, for my work in the sector.

Very important.

I was informed, in the "working groups" of the EBL Seminar- (Rome- January 2007), that nearly all NBOs give now administrative roles to women, for at least the 20% of the available places, according to the IOC policy.

Competitions

The competitions organized for the Women are:

In the EBL:

- **Women's Pairs Championship** (now scheduled in the European Open Bridge Championship – transnational event-), including the Trophy "Anna Maria Torlontano Cup", to be awarded to the first 3 best classified European Pairs.
- **Women's Teams Championship**
- **Women's Bridge Festival** (created for the medium ranked Women Players, and organised on a break-even basis so at no cost to the EBL).
- **Mixed Pairs and Teams Championship** (also included in the Open Championship)

In the WBF

- **IOC Trophy:** 3 years in Lausanne and 1 year in Salt Lake City
- **Venice Cup:** World Teams Championship.

- **World Pairs Championship.**
- **World Teams Championship:** McConnell Trophy.
- **World Team Olympiad**

Note: Last year the “**Juno Cup**”, event promoted by me, was organized in Wo Xi – China and 5 European Women Teams were invited to participate. (free accommodation and money prizes). This was an excellent and very well staged tournament organized by CCBA (Chinese Bridge Association) and the President of Zone 6. It is hoped that this event will be repeated next year in Bangkok

I participate in and take care of the organisation (not technical) of the Opening Ceremony and of the Prize-giving Ceremony for all the World and European Championships and events, where in addition to seeking to ensure that the **protocol** is properly followed and the Ceremonies are appropriate for the event.

Conclusion

The reasons why I should be re-elected:

As last year I was confirmed as Chairman of the WBF Women’s Committee by José Damiani until the end of his term as President, I think it could be logical and useful to have the same role in the EBL, in order to follow the same line, in managing the Women’s sector.

Yes, I am not very young, I know, and I served in the EBL since many many years, but...what can I do....years mean experience, my enthusiasm and my optimism are still very strong, my brain very bright, my way of approaching the people very easy, my willingness to work is enormous.!!

Then, to conclude, it is my pleasure to offer to you my loyalty, and my assurance that I will work for all the European NBOs to the best of my ability if I am re-elected to the European Executive Board for ... and this I promise ... my last term!