

Bridge and women

If we ask anybody who is somebody in the Bridge world , the answer is always the same : men play Bridge much better than women . Such reply finds an objective confirmation in the individual world open ranking.

If we look into a somehow similar discipline , chess , results are quite similar .

In the art world , we can see that the most famous painters and composers of all times are in fact men.

In the corporate world things are no different. The vast majority of executives is again composed by men. But in this case there is a dramatic difference between USA and continental Europe. In the States , thanks to the “ Equal opportunity Law “ the percentage of executive women is much higher than in Europe and that is not all : there are statistics showing that Companies having also women on the Board of Directors , tend to produce better results than Companies having only men as Board Directors.

In politics we had in the past and we continue to have , from time to time , some rare example of women occupying the top chair.

Somebody might start asking what has Bridge to do with politics or Corporate management. A legitimate question deserves a legitimate answer : Bridge , chess, painting, music and also politics are all part of our cultural heritage in a broad sense.

From what stated above , we might conclude that women are somehow less “ able “ than men. It is a fascinating subject to investigate the reasons for such supposed “ gap “ between the two sexes.

Undoubtedly , everything else being equal , the individual having more self confidence , will have more chances of success and may be, here is the key to answer my investigation.

During thousand of years , men , thanks to their superior physical strength , have relegated women to a secondary role in society. When civilisation came by, the same situation has been maintained with the help of all religions that have denied to women , in their field, a role equal to men . For centuries a debate went on to decide whether women had a soul, women have been denied, and still are, the access to priesthood , more than 30.000 have been burned as witches and not only during dark Middle Age because the last ones to be sent up in smoke were burned not later than the beginning of 1700 .

It is certainly possible that such a long dated discrimination had a strong influence on women performance in all domains . The lack of success has then been used as a proof of an objective women inferiority .

Such vicious circle has taken place and continues to exist even now a days .

Society has been picking its leaders , in all fields , only within 50% of human beings , men. We have deprived our selves of all possible potential contribution coming from the other 50% of human beings , women.

The integration process has begun only very recently and , very slowly , first results are surfacing. Now women can vote like ordinary citizens , not everywhere but almost .

The day when we will see the first woman name in Bridge individual world ranking is may be not too far away.