

3rd European Bridge Champions Cup

la ciutat
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7th - 10th
October 2004

Daily Bulletin

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Bulletin I

Friday 8th october 2004

JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH VISITS THE CHAMPIONS CUP

Juan Antonio Samaranch, I.O.C. Honour President, has not forgotten his promise to the EBL President Gianarrigo Rona, to visit the Champions Cup in Barcelona. He was reminded of it by Eduardo Molero, and today he attended the event. Samaranch, under whose presidency bridge was recognised officially by the IOC as a sport, had a long and friendly conversation with Rona, reminding the past meetings and the not yet finished walk of bridge on the Olympic way. After watching the Vugraph, Samaranch went to the playing rooms to approach the players directly, congratulating them and confirming that bridge has been recognised by the IOC because it is a true sport. After the congratulations to the organisers, able to bring to Barcelona this important sport event, Samaranch left the venue confirming his friendship and sympathy. The best starting for the Champions Cup.



Programme & Schedule of play

Friday 8th october

- 10.30 Round Robin 3rd match
- 13.30 Lunch
- 14.30 Round Robin 4th match
- 18.00 Round Robin 5th match
- 21.00 Dinner

Today's VuGraph Matches

10.30

France Société Générale

v

Computerland AZS PWR Wroclaw

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Press Conference



Yesterday afternoon, the Press Conference presenting the 3rd European Champions Cup took place in the delightful setting of the most prestigious Tennis Club in Spain, the Real Club de Tenis Barcelona 1899. This club hosts the Spanish Open each year and also has been the training center for all the great Iberic champions for many years.



In front of a large audience, speeches were held by José Maria Tintoré, President of the Tennis Club, Gianarigo Rona, President of the European Bridge League, Eduardo Molero, President of the Spanish Bridge Federation, Francesco Angelini, a member of the team that defends the title, George Bellesté, CEO of the Juanola Laboratories, sponsor of this event, Ercole Bove, Chairman of the Championship and finally by the great champion Benito Garozzo.



Federation
Monegasque
du Bridge
(F.M.B.)

Société des Bains de Mer - Compagnie monegasque de banque

INTERNATIONAL TEAM TOURNAMENT

12 – 13 – 14 november 2004

Sporting d'Hiver Friday 12 nov.: Entry from 18.00 to 20.00 - Play start at 21.00

Results

ROUND 1

Group A

Bridge Club Allegra	- Karlsruher Bridge Sport Club	22	- 8
Bridge Klub Herkules	- One Eyed Jacks	14	- 16
All England Bridge Club	- Bridge Club Modalfa	6	- 24

Group B

Bridge House Barcelona	- Tennis Club Parioli Angelini	0	- 25
Zenith Moscow	- France Société Générale	9	- 20
Computerland AZS PWR Wroclaw	- Bridge Club Tofas	15	- 15

ROUND 2

Group A

One Eyed Jacks	- Bridge Club Allegra	9	- 21
Karlsruher Bridge Sport Club	- Bridge Club Modalfa	10	- 20
Bridge Klub Herkules	- All England Bridge Club	18	- 12

Group B

France Société Générale	- Bridge House Barcelona	19	- 11
Tennis Club Parioli Angelini	- Bridge Club Tofas	20	- 10
Zenith Moscow	- Computerland AZS PWR Wroclaw	11	- 19

GROUP A RANKING

After 2 rounds

Bridge Club Modalfa	44
Bridge Club Allegra	43
Bridge Klub Herkules	32
One Eyed Jacks	25
All England Bridge Club	18
Karlsruher Bridge Sport Club	18

GROUP A RANKING

After 2 rounds

Tennis Club Parioli Angelini	45
France Société Générale	39
Computerland AZS PWR Wroclaw	34
Bridge Club Tofas	25
Zenith Moscow	20
Bridge House Barcelona	11

Butler ranking after 2 round

Rank	Score	Name	Team	1	2
1	2,44	Lorenzo LAURIA - Alfredo VERSACE	Tennis Club Paroli	3,30	1,57
2	1,99	Francesco ANGELINI - Antonio SEMENTA	Tennis Club Paroli	1,99	
3	1,90	Jean-Christophe QUANTIN - Franck MULTON	Société Générale	1,90	
4	1,49	Laurent THUILLEZ - Lionel SEBBANE	Société Générale		1,49
5	1,39	Ton BAKKEREN - Huub BERTENS	BC Modalfa	1,91	0,87
6	1,15	David GOLD - Tom TOWNSEND	All England BC		1,15
7	1,01	Andrea BURATTI - Massimo LANZAROTTI	BC Allegra	0,68	1,35
8	0,82	Fredrik NYSTROM - Peter BERTHEAU	BK Herkules	-0,14	1,78
9	0,75	Mariusz KWIECINSKI - Stainislaw GOLEBIEWSKI	Computerland AZS		0,75
10	0,63	Giorgio DUBOIN - Norberto BOCCHI	BC Allegra	1,30	-0,04
11	0,53	Gert Jan PAULISSEN - Bart NAB	BC Modalfa	0,60	0,46
12	0,11	Adam ZMUDZINSKI - Cezary BALICKI	Computerland AZS	-0,13	0,35
13	0,09	Klaus ADAMSEN - Dennis KOCH-PALMUND	One Eyed Jacks	0,14	0,04
14	0,04	Suleyman KOLATA - Yalcin ATABEY	BC Tofas	0,13	-0,04
15	0,04	Fulvio FANTONI - Claudio NUNES	Tennis Club Parioli		0,04
16	0,03	Salvador ASSAEL - Nafiz ZORLU	BC Tofas	0,03	
17	-0,03	Wlodzimierz STARKOWSKI - Wojtek OLANSKI	Computerland AZS	-0,03	
18	-0,26	Michael ROSENBLUM - Larissa PANINA	BC Zenith Moscow	0,23	-0,75
19	-0,35	Jean-Jacques PALAU - Jerome ROMBAUT	Société Générale	-0,23	-0,46
	-0,35	Jouri KHOKHLOV - Vladimir REKUNOV	BC Zenith Moscow		-0,35
21	-0,53	Per-Olof SUNDELIN - Johan SYLVAN	BK Herkules	0,09	-1,15
22	-0,57	Josef PIEKAREK - Tomasz GOTARD	Karlsruher Bridge	-0,68	-0,46
23	-0,72	Jan NICOLAJSSEN - Thorvald AAGAARD	One Eyed Jacks	-0,09	-1,35
24	-0,87	Entscho WLADOW - Michael ELINESCU	Karlsruher Bridge		-0,87
25	-1,19	Justin HACKETT - Jason HACKETT	All England BC	-0,60	-1,78
26	-1,30	Sabine AUKEN - Daniela von ARNIM	Karlsruher Bridge	-1,30	
27	-1,42	Juan Carlos VENTIN - Carlos FERNANDEZ	Bridge House	-3,30	0,46
28	-1,49	Juan PONT	Bridge House		-1,49
29	-1,57	Ozcan PEHLIVAN - Dogan UZUM	BC Tofas		-1,57
30	-1,74	Jose CREUHERAS	Bridge House	-1,99	-1,49
31	-1,90	Evgueni SOLNTSEV - Arseni SHUR	BC Zenith Moscow	-1,90	
32	-1,91	Andrew ROBSON - David BAKHSHI	All England BC	-1,91	
33	-1,99	Javier GRAUPERA	Bridge House	-1,99	

**Round Robin
round 1**

Bridge Club Herkules v One Eyed Jacks

by Peter Ventura

Sweden's BK Herkules, with PO Sundelin, Johan Sylvan, Peter Bertheau and Fredrik Nyström, won its group in the Round Robin last year in Rome, but was beaten badly in the final by the Italian team Angelini. In Malmö all four Swedes were in the team which collected the silver medals for Sweden. Now they have come to Barcelona for a revenge!

Since Norway performed poorly in Malmö there are only two Scandinavian countries here, Denmark and Sweden. They met in the first match in the battle of Scandinavia.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 5 ♥ 10 7 4 3 2 ♦ 10 9 5 ♣ A Q 10 4	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q J 10 8 ♥ 5 ♦ K J 8 2 ♣ J 7 5 2	♠ A K 7 6 4 3 2 ♥ A 9 6 ♦ 6 3 ♣ 6
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Koch-Palmlund	Bertheau	Adamsen	Nyström
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble
Pass	2♦	2♣	5♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Aagaard	Sundelin	Nicolajsen
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble
Pass	INT	2♣	All Pass

The young Swedish pair Bertheau-Nyström is too old to play in the Juniors, but on this board they showed some junior manners. 2♦ was 8-11 HCP's with diamonds and when Nyström jumped to 5♦ they were far too high. The contract was doomed to go down; -300 to Denmark.

In the other room the Danes had a completely different view, as they let their opponents buy 2♣. PO Sundelin finessed in clubs, pitched a diamond on ♣A and 2♣ was just made; -110 but that was 5 IMPs to Denmark.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ K 8 7 6 2 ♥ - ♦ A J 9 8 7 5 ♣ 9 2	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 10 9 5 3 ♥ 9 8 4 ♦ 6 2 ♣ Q J 7 5	♠ 4 ♥ A K 10 7 6 2 ♦ K Q 10 ♣ A 8 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Koch-Palmlund	Bertheau	Adamsen	Nyström
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Aagaard	Sundelin	Nicolajsen
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

6♦ is the spot to be. Declarer can throw a club on a high heart then play spades towards the hand. Two spades can then be ruffed in dummy. On a trump lead 6♦ is still a nice small slam, since the hearts can be established.

Koch-Palmlund/Adamsen found the slam relatively easy after a natural auction. Koch-Palmlund showed one ace and Adamsen hoped for the best, +920. Well done!

On a strong club opening Sylvan showed 8+ HCPs and 5-4 in diamonds and spades. 4NT did not ask for aces, but showed three. When Sylvan stopped in game Sweden had to lose 11 IMPs.

Board 13. Dealer North, All Vul.

♠ A Q 8 7 3 2 ♥ 9 5 2 ♦ Q 5 ♣ 7 5	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td> </td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K J 10 6 ♥ A J 4 ♦ K 8 ♣ K 9 4 2	♠ 5 ♥ Q 10 7 6 ♦ 10 9 7 6 4 2 ♣ 8 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Koch-Palmlund	Bertheau	Adamsen	Nyström
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Aagaard	Sundelin	Nicolajsen
Pass	1♣	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Nyström mildly invited a club slam and it was accepted by Bertheau. Koch-Palmlund did not have to think long considering what to lead. As N/S together had promised at least six spades ♠A hit the table in less than a second. Adamsen got his ruff and it was all over. What a pity on a quite decent small slam.

The Danes at the other table were not even close to slam, reaching 3NT. 1♣ was either clubs or, as it was this time, a balanced hand with 15-17 HCPs. As the slam was beaten at the other table the Danes this time were the lucky ones as they won 13 IMPs. It could have been the other way round easily enough.



On the next board there were some fireworks at both tables.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ 4 ♥ 3 2 ♦ A K Q 9 7 ♣ K J 9 7 4	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td> </td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 5 2 ♥ J 10 8 6 5 ♦ J 6 2 ♣ 10 6	♠ 6 ♥ A K Q ♦ 10 8 5 4 3 ♣ 8 5 3 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Koch-Palmlund	Bertheau	Adamsen	Nyström
2NT	Pass	3♣	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♣	Dble
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Aagaard	Sundelin	Nicolajsen
2NT	Pass	5♦	5♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

In the Open Room South opened a strong club. West's 2NT was for the minors and now started the fight for the contract. When East 'sacrificed' in clubs, Nyström was hoping for a nice reward and doubled. But there were only two black tricks to win for the defence – 550 to Denmark. The Danes gained just 2 IMPs on the board, though, since Nicolajsen as South in the Closed Room tried to play 5♠. Sundelin did not believe 5♠ had any chance and doubled – two down and 500 to Sweden.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 10 7 3 ♥ 2 ♦ J 10 8 3 ♣ A K 6 5 3	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td> </td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 9 6 4 ♥ A Q 9 8 5 ♦ A 6 4 ♣ 2	♠ Q J 5 ♥ 7 6 ♦ Q 9 7 5 2 ♣ J 8 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											

♠ A 8 2 ♥ K J 10 4 3 ♦ K ♣ Q 10 9 7
--

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Koch-Palmlund	Bertheau	Adamsen	Nyström
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Aagaard	Sundelin	Nicolajsen
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Nicolajsen stopped in game. The Danes had the luck on their side before, but on this board the Swedes scored +1430 when they found 6♥ with only 26 HCPs. The key to the success for them was a complicated relay system. 2♣ was asking and 3NT showed exactly the distribution 4-5-3-1 and 8-10 points according to the scale A=3, K=2, Q=1 and singleton=1. 4♥ was exactly 9 points and 4♠ zero or two aces. A spade loser could go on ♦A and the rest of the play was dull.

Aagaard/Nicolajsen had no visions as they simply reached game after a Jacoby sequence, where 3♣ was a minimum hand – 680 and a very well deserved 13 IMPs to Sweden.

This board is in a way similar to board 13, when Bertheau/Nyström played in 6♣ whereas Aagaard/

The battle of Scandinavia thus ended up almost even, 50-47 IMPs to Denmark which was translated to 16-14 in VPs.

**Round Robin
round I**
Bridge House v T.C. Parioli Angelini

by Pedro Rubiés - Mary Carmen Babot

En sala abierta Ventín – Fernández en N-S y Lauria Versace en E-W. En sala cerrada Angelini-Sementa en N-S y Creuheras-Graupera en E-W.

En la mano 1 la pareja italiana llega a una manga que ninguna otra pareja ha subastado ganada después de una salida favorable.

En la mano 2 un reveil desafortunado de Carlos Fernández desencadena un 800 en contra frente a la marca de 1ST ganado en la otra sala.

Ventín en la mano 3 hace un trial bid razonable pero que lleva a una manga inganable para los españoles y 5 IMPS más para los italianos.

Lo más interesante de la mano 5 es el comentario en la sala de vugraph sobre cómo jugar un palo consistente en KJ97653 para fallo. Parecía que era indiferente un golpe en blanco y luego el rey del palo pero Diego Brenner señaló que jugando el K en punta te cubres contra la posición de 108 secos.

La mano 6 supone un soplo de aire para el equipo español: una defensa demasiado cara a 4♠ sobre la marca de 4♥ reporta nuestros primeros 5 IMPS.

En la mano 8 la pareja Lauria-Versace subasta un difícil slam a diamante mientras que un malentendido en la otra sala acaba en una parcial a corazón. Empieza a marsearse la tragedia.

Otro slam adverso en la mano siguiente. Éste al 50%, al impasse del rey de triunfo que está colocado...

La mano 10 nos trae la gran sorpresa de que, por primera vez en el match, se juega el mismo contrato en ambas mesas!!! Y la marca es 1ST.

Y la siguiente no sólo han igualado el contrato también el resultado (una pequeña parcial a 2♥).

En la mano 13 los italianos juegan una cómoda manga a 3ST mientras los españoles eligen el slam a trébol que sólo bate el pic 6-1 (que lo está) y la salida de as de pic y más pic (que es lo que pasa en la mesa). Mala suerte para un aceptable contrato.

En la mano 17 apertura de 2♦ multi por Juan Carlos Ventín y tras un doblo de Lauria y un paso de Carlos Fernández, norte deduce que dicha voz promete el palo de diamante y cambia el contrato de 2♠ por el otro palo para acabar en un tremendo 3♠ doblado con 800 de multa.

En resumen, un match en una sola dirección. Jugado por los italianos sin un solo error y demasiados por parte del equipo español, en especial en sala abierta, donde Fernández y Ventín han tenido una excesiva cantidad de desajustes inesperados en la subasta.

**Round Robin
round 2**
T.C. Parioli Angelini - Bridge Club Tofas

by Jos Jacobs

In the second round of Round Robin B, the Turkish champions TOFAS had to face the titleholders, Tennis Club PARIOLI Angelini from Rome. In Round 1, Tofas had held the strong squad from Wroclaw to a draw, whereas the Italians had blitzed the hosts. So the latter were looking as if they were back already on the same track as last year, but Tofas would certainly have other ideas a mere two weeks before the Istanbul Olympiad, wanting to repeat the form they showed at this year's Europeans in Malmö by finishing 7th.

After two quiet boards to start with, things began to happen on board 3:

Board 3. Dealer South, EW Vul.

	♠ 10 8 6 2		
	♥ K 3		
	♦ 7		
	♣ K Q 9 7 6 5		
♠ A J 9 4 3	N	♠ K Q 7 5	
♥ Q 7	W	♥ J 10 2	
♦ A 9	E	♦ K Q 6 4	
♣ J 4 3 2	S	♣ A 10	
	♠ -		
	♥ A 9 8 6 5 4		
	♦ J 10 8 5 3 2		
	♣ -		

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Pehlivan	Lauria	Uzum
2♠	3♥	4♥	5♥
Dble	All Pass		

Versace led a trump, and continued trumps when in with the first diamond. On the second diamond, Versace won the ace and tried to cash a spade, Uzum ruffing. When Lauria won the third round of diamonds, he could cash the top trump and go back to spades, but declarer was not fatally shortened, though he and the contract had to go three off. Parioli +800.

This looked a fair enough result until they made a mistake in the Open Room:

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Kolota	Fantoni	Atabey	Nunes
1♠	2♣	3♣	3♥
Pass	Pass	4♣	5♦
Dble	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

The same contract as at the other table, as could be expected. Kolota led the ♠A ruffed by Nunes, who next played a club to the king and ace. This way, he handed back the tempo gained on the spade lead, as Atabey now could play a trump with declarer already down to only five of them. Play then went mainly the same as in the Closed Room, but after conceding the 4th diamond to East Nunes was out of trumps after ruffing another spade with his last trump. This all of a sudden meant down six for a remarkable +1400 to Tofas and 12 IMPs.

Two boards later, we saw an exciting example of superior judgement and hand evaluation by Lauria:

Board 5. Dealer North, NS Vul.

	♠ J 8 7 5		
	♥ J 8		
	♦ 9 8 4		
	♣ A 9 8 4		
♠ Q 10 9 4	N	♠ -	
♥ Q 7 6 5	W	♥ K 10 4 3	
♦ 6 5	E	♦ K Q J 3	
♣ 5 3 2	S	♣ K J 10 7 6	
	♠ A K 6 3 2		
	♥ A 9 2		
	♦ A 10 7 2		
	♣ Q		

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Pehlivan	Lauria	Uzum
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	2♠	Dble	4♣
Dble	All Pass		

Lorenzo Lauria lived up to his reputation as he once again managed to make world class bridge look incredibly easy. At his second turn, he judged his hand worth a take-out double which enabled Versace to axe the completely normal final contract. Parioli +500 on a club lead and club continuations by the defence, as declarer lost three tricks in the red suits, a club overruff and a second natural trump trick to West.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Kolota	Fantoni	Atabey	Nunes
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Without the double, the play took a different course. Club to the ace, ♦A and a diamond ducked to

East's queen. A heart to the ace, ♠A getting the bad news and another heart, East winning his king. Now, we saw a funny finale: East cashed his ♦K and continued the suit, West shedding both his low clubs! So Nunes' ♦10 won the trick. Declarer then cashed the ♠K and ruffed the last heart in dummy, but after the ♠J West's ♠10 had to score a second undertrick as declarer could not get back to his hand to draw it. The position will be basically the same if the ♠K is not cashed before.

Not that it mattered very much, as Nunes was not doubled. He lost 200, but Parioli had recouped 7 IMPs to trail by 6 at this stage.

Another two boards later Tofas were outbid by their opponents:

Board 7. Dealer South, All Vul.

♠ Q 5 4 2 ♥ 6 ♦ A K J 6 4 ♣ J 6 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 8 3 ♥ 10 5 4 2 ♦ 9 5 ♣ Q 10 9 3	♠ 7 6 ♥ A J 9 3 ♦ Q 3 ♣ A K 8 7 5
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ K J 10 9 ♥ K Q 8 7 ♦ 10 8 7 2 ♣ 4											

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Pehlivan	Lauria	Uzum
			Pass
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Versace's 3♣ was well-timed, as it kept all options open. Lauria could either go on in clubs, or try to find out if his partner held a spade stopper after all.

On the lead of a low spade from North, the ♠Q quickly became declarer's 9th trick when Uzum continued spades and Versace ducked twice. Parioli +600.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Kolota	Fantoni	Atabey	Nunes
			Pass
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Had East bid no-trumps over 2♠, as he might, the declaration would have been placed at the wrong side of

the table and 3NT would probably have gone down. Probably, 3♦ suggested spade shortness which made 3NT look less attractive to West. In a sense, he was right, but 5♣ was not a success either and went down two due to the bad trump break. Please note that on a good day you might make it!

So Parioli had recorded another big swing and caught up Tofas to lead by 7 now.

After this, we had to wait quite a long time, even more so because they were not playing quickly in the Open Room, before another board worth reporting came up. A number of solid game contracts had come along, but only three IMPs had changed hands during the last six boards.

With the score at 23-15 to Parioli, this was board 14:

Board 14. Dealer East, None Vul.

♠ J ♥ K 7 2 ♦ A J 5 ♣ A K Q J 9 6	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A K 7 6 ♥ A J 8 5 4 ♦ 8 ♣ 5 4 3	♠ 10 9 8 4 ♥ 10 6 3 ♦ 7 3 2 ♣ 10 8 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ Q 5 3 2 ♥ Q 9 ♦ K Q 10 9 6 4 ♣ 7											

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Pehlivan	Lauria	Uzum
		Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	Pass	2♦
2 NT	All Pass		

On the lead of the ♠A and a heart switch, Versace had eight easy tricks. On the actual layout, the contract cannot be beaten as the defenders can never legitimately take five heart tricks (the ♥Q ducked might do, however). Parioli +120.

At the other table, the weak two caused havoc:

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Kolota	Fantoni	Atabey	Nunes
		Pass	2♦
Dble	Redble	2♠	3♦
3NT	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♣	Dble	All Pass	

All pretty normal bidding, but for once North had all the missing high cards in the side suits. When

South rebid his suit, showing a fair hand, and West bid again, this proved once too often. There were just eight tricks in this contract too, but Parioli had scored another +300 to gain 9 IMPs.

Two boards later (back into the initial swing rhythm), Tofas seized its chance:

Board 16. Dealer West, EW Vul.

♠ 8 7 4 2 ♥ J 10 ♦ 5 4 3 2 ♣ Q 8 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 5 ♥ Q 5 4 3 ♦ Q 8 ♣ A J 10 5 3	♠ K Q J 3 ♥ 8 7 6 2 ♦ A 10 ♣ K 9 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ 10 9 6 ♥ A K 9 ♦ K J 9 7 6 ♣ 7 6											

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Pehlivan	Lauria	Uzum
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The weak NT worked very easy here when Uzum stretched a little with his good five-card suit. When the spades broke 4-4 and the diamonds behaved, there were nine tricks for declarer before the defence could come to five after the lead of the ♠K. Tofas +400.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Kolota	Fantoni	Atabey	Nunes
Pass	INT	2♣	Dble
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Another weak NT, but Atabey boldly intervened with a Landy-type 2♣. Lacking a spade stopper, Nunes could do little else than retreat to 3♦. Assuming diamonds to be 4-2 he took a first-round finesse of the ♦10 after winning the heart lead in hand. When this failed, he suddenly was one down for another +50 to Tofas and 10 IMPs back. The deficit had been reduced to 8.

A few IMPs were added to the Italian total when the last board changed the outcome of the match quite dramatically:

Board 20, Dealer West, All Vul.

♠ K Q 6 5 3 2 ♥ 9 2 ♦ 8 ♣ Q 8 7 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 9 ♥ K 8 6 4 3 ♦ J ♣ K 10 9 5 3	♠ J 4 ♥ A Q 10 7 ♦ A Q 10 9 4 ♣ A 6
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ 10 8 7 ♥ J 5 ♦ K 7 6 5 3 2 ♣ J 4											

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Pehlivan	Lauria	Uzum
2♠	3♥	Dble	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Once again, making too much noise made it easy for the opponents to find their way through the minefields. This time, North was the culprit when he bid 3♥. He led the ♦J, Versace winning this with dummy's ace and continuing with the jack of trumps which held. The next trump went to the king and ace, and North tried a low club. When Versace ran this to his queen successfully, he had the rest of the tricks. Marked heart finesse followed by the "marked" ruffing finesse in diamonds. Parioli +680.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Kolota	Fantoni	Atabey	Nunes
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

With nothing to guide him, Kolota had to find his way through the rough all on his own. Same lead of the ♦J, won in dummy, but Kolota immediately played the ♦Q on which he shed a heart. The good news was that Fantoni did not win the trick with a cunning ♦K, but the bad news was that Fantoni did win the trick after all, be it with the ♠9. Next came a low heart, on which declarer played the ace. A heart was ruffed in hand and a low spade was won by North who led another heart, South ruffing and declarer overruffing. Next came a club to the ace and the ♦10 covered and ruffed. At this point, the hand can be made if declarer plays the ♣Q. Not illogically, West tried the more normal line of a trump to the jack and a low club from dummy, but when Fantoni produced all the high clubs the contract suddenly was down one for a big final swing of 12 IMPs to Parioli, who thus won the match 49-25 or 20-10 in V. P.