



3rd European Bridge Champions Cup



la ciutat
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7th - 10th
October 2004



Daily Bulletin

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Bulletin 3

Sunday 10th October 2004

BOTH PRE-TOURNAMENT FAVOURITES MAKE IT TO THE FINAL!

Yesterday it was semifinal day. One Italian team would certainly make it to the final, as the two teams were playing head-to-head. Right from the start, Parioli seemed to have slightly the better of the exchanges. They led by 14 after the first quarter and by 16 at half-time. Then, the tide seemed to turn as Allegra took over the lead early in the third segment. They were not to enjoy this position very long, as a few boards later Parioli came along again to lead by four at the end of the quarter. It looked as if it was everybody's match with only 12 boards to play, but four boards later, it suddenly was all over. Parioli had managed to score 41 IMPs from these first four boards, and although Allegra did well to respond by scoring 21 from the next four, time was running in favour of the holders, who could even afford to lose a further 10 IMPs on the final board.

The score in this match: 106-86 to Parioli.

In the other semifinal match, things were less spectacular. Modalfa took an early lead of 17 IMPs after the first quarter, but for the next 24 boards it was all Computerland. They won 46-2 in the second quarter and added 22-6 in the third to lead by 82-39 with 12 boards to go. The Dutch won the final segment 29-17, but this did not change the outcome of the match: 99-68 was the size of the Polish victory.

Last night, we saw the first 12 boards of the final. As expected, the match is still very close, but the holders have taken a small early advantage, leading by 8 with 36 more to go.



Tennis Club Parioli Angelini v Computerland AZS PWR Wroclaw

Programme & Schedule of play

Sunday 10th October

- 9.30 Final 2nd session (12 boards)
Play-Off 1st session (12 boards)
- 11.30 Coffee Break - Buffet
- 11.50 Final 3rd session (12 boards)
Play-Off 2nd session (12 boards)
- 13.40 Coffee Break - Buffet
- 14.00 Final 4th session (12 boards)
Play-Off 3rd session (12 boards)
- 20.00 Prize Giving & Victory Banquet

Today's VuGraph Matches

9.30

Tennis Club Parioli Angelini

v

Computerland AZS PWR Wroclaw

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Results

Semifinals A	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Tot
Tennis Club Parioli Angelini	32	16	13	45	106
Bridge Club Allegra	18	14	23	31	86
Computerland AZS PWR Wroclaw	14	46	22	17	99
Bridge Club Modalfa	31	2	6	29	68
Semifinals B	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3		Tot
France Société Générale	32	8	45		85
One Eyed Jacks	24	32	9		65
Bridge Club Tofas	29	45	14		88
Bridge Klub Herkules	34	5	18		57
Semifinals C	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3		Tot
Bridge House Barcelona	31	31	21		83
Karlsruher Bridge Sport Club	18	23	30		71
Zenith Moscow	26	18	19		63
All England Bridge Club	19	24	14		57

Final	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Tot
Tennis Club Parioli Angelini	16	-	-	-	16
Computerland AZS PWR Wroclaw	8	-	-	-	8



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

Principauté de Monaco

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

**Round Robin
round 5**

BC Allegra v Bridge Klub Herkules

by Jos Jacobs

In section A of the Round Robins, the leaders Allegra had to play Herkules in the last round. The Italians had scored 85 V.P. from 4 matches and were 14 V. P. ahead of Modalfa, whereas Herkules were in 3rd position with 61 V.P., 10 behind the Dutch who had recovered remarkably well from their heavy defeat against Allegra in the morning match. So only a big win would do the Swedes any good, even more so as the Dutch looked favourites to beat Denmark in their last match and thus secure qualification without any help from their friends.

Herkules had the good start they needed when the Italians overbid badly on the first board:

Board 1. Dealer North, None Vul.

♠ A 4 3		♠ Q 10									
♥ 10 5 3 2		♥ Q J 9 6 4									
♦ 10		♦ Q 8 6 5									
♣ A K J 8 4		♣ 9 7									
♠ K J 8 7 6	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 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		♠ 9 5 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 7		♥ A K 8									
♦ A 9		♦ K J 7 4 3 2									
♣ 10 6 5 3 2		♣ Q									

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Nyström	Buratti	Bertheau
	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

The Swedish relay system coped effectively with all the traps of this hand. The final contract of 2♥ was safe, even against the 5-1 trump break. Herkules +140.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	D'Avossa	Sundelin	Ferraro
	1♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Dble	Redble	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

On misfit hands, bidding carefully often produces better results than overstretching. This certainly was one of those cases: 5♦ had no chance and quickly went down two. Herkules another +100 and the first 6 IMPs of the many they would need.

A larger amount of those much-needed IMPs

came in for them a few boards later:

Board 4. Dealer West, All Vul.

♠ Q J 2		♠ A 10 7 4									
♥ 5		♥ 10 6 3									
♦ A K Q 8 5 4		♦ 3									
♣ 9 3 2		♣ K 10 7 6 5									
♠ K 6 5 3	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 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		♠ 9 8
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ K 8 4 2		♥ A Q J 9 7									
♦ J 9 7 6		♦ 10 2									
♣ Q		♣ A J 3 2									

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Nyström	Buratti	Bertheau
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Without any clue from the auction (2♥ had been a relay and 3♥ showed shortness in the suit and a maximum hand), Lanzarotti led a heart to the ten and declarer's queen. Bertheau now played back the ♥9. When this held, he could even afford the diamond safety-play, ducking in dummy when his ♦10 was covered with the jack. West switched to the ♣Q which was allowed to hold, and next played a spade to partner's ace. Buratti's spade return settled the issue for nine tricks, Herkules +600.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	D'Avossa	Sundelin	Ferraro
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Here, North had become the declarer and Sundelin made the good lead of the ♠7 rather than a club. Three rounds of spades put dummy on lead with the ♠Q. D'Avossa next cashed the diamonds, but when they did not break the contract was doomed. He continued with a heart to the nine, but Sylvan could take the king and simply cash two more winners for down one. Herkules +100 and 12 more IMPs.

The next board might have been another Swedish gain, it seems:

Board 5. Dealer North, NS Vul.

♠ K 10 9 7 ♥ 7 ♦ 9 3 2 ♣ K J 9 3 2	♠ 6 ♥ Q 10 4 3 ♦ A 10 7 6 ♣ Q 10 8 6 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W S E </div>	♠ 8 3 2 ♥ A K J 9 8 5 ♦ - ♣ A 7 5 4	♠ A Q J 5 4 ♥ 6 2 ♦ K Q J 8 5 4 ♣ -
---	--	--	--

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Nyström	Buratti	Bertheau
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♥
Pass	2NT	3♥	4♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West led a heart to the jack and East continued the suit. A third heart was ruffed by South with the jack, and from here there are 11 tricks on a complete cross-ruff. Bertheau however put his money on the spade finesse after seeing the trump break, which would have worked had he taken the ruffing finesse. His line of taking the finesse through East could easily have been successful as well, as the bidding seemed to mark East with quite a number of the missing high cards, in spite of West's double. Not this time, however: 200 to Allegra.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	D'Avossa	Sundelin	Ferraro
Pass	Pass	1♥	3♣
Dble	4♦	4♥	5♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	Redble
Pass	5♦	6♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

This should have been a profitable save as 5♦ can be made, as we saw. It cost the Swedes another 300, which amounted to 11 IMPs to Allegra.

The next board was a push, but both sides would at one table consider it a good board for themselves, I assume:

Board 6. Dealer East, EW Vul.

♠ A K 2 ♥ K Q 10 6 ♦ 10 8 5 4 ♣ K 7	♠ 3 ♥ J 9 8 3 2 ♦ A K 9 ♣ 9 6 5 3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W S E </div>	♠ Q 10 9 6 ♥ A 7 5 4 ♦ Q 7 6 2 ♣ Q	♠ J 8 7 5 4 ♥ - ♦ J 3 ♣ A J 10 8 4 2
--	---	---	---

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Nyström	Buratti	Bertheau
1♣	1♥	Pass	INT
Pass	3♣	Dble	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Buratti led his ♣Q, but it did not help. Bertheau could not lose more than two spades and a trump. Herkules +510.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	D'Avossa	Sundelin	Ferraro
INT	Pass	2♣	Dble
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

A perfectly straightforward auction to a perfectly straightforward contract. Alas, either opponent could make his presence felt and that was 500 to Allegra. No swing.

Board 11. Dealer South, None Vul.

♠ J 5 ♥ 6 3 2 ♦ A Q J 8 3 ♣ A 6 3	♠ 6 4 ♥ A K 9 8 7 4 ♦ 9 7 5 4 ♣ 4 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W S E </div>	♠ Q 10 9 8 7 2 ♥ - ♦ 2 ♣ Q J 9 8 7 2	♠ A K 3 ♥ Q J 10 5 ♦ K 10 6 ♣ K 10 5
--	---	---	---

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Nyström	Buratti	Bertheau
			INT
Pass	4♣	Dble	4♥
4NT	Pass	5♣	Dble
All Pass			

5♣ is the right spot for a save. The save itself is right as 4♥ will be made with South as declarer: East cannot lead his singleton diamond. So par was reached with one down, +100 to Herkules.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	D'Avossa	Sundelin	Ferraro
			1♣
1♦	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

This is not the best spot, though it's one level lower than 5♣. On repeated heart leads declarer will get short in trumps before the clubs are established. When Ferraro returned a low club rather than a heart after winning his first top trump, he had given away a vital tempo and in fact an overtrick too! Herkules another (surprise) +690 and 13 more IMPs to lead by 24 now.

At this point in the match, rumours were that Denmark were leading Modalfa by a margin, big enough to see the Swedes through to the semis if they held on to their current lead. Tension was growing all round...

But half the lead went off on the next board by an ill-timed double:

Board 12. Dealer West, NS Vul.

		♠ K 10 9 5 3	
		♥ Q 9	
		♦ A J 10 3	
		♣ 10 2	
♠ A J 8 4			♠ 6
♥ A 10 6 4 3			♥ J 8 7 5 2
♦ K Q			♦ 9 5 4
♣ 7 3			♣ Q 8 6 4
		♠ Q 7 2	
		♥ K	
		♦ 8 7 6 2	
		♣ A K J 9 5	

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Nyström	Buratti	Bertheau
1♥	1♠	3♥	4♠
All Pass			

Straightforward bidding by both sides here. With nothing to guide him, who can blame declarer for going down after a club lead? Allegra +200.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	D'Avossa	Sundelin	Ferraro
1♥	1♠	4♥	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

Well, on a good day 4♠ might go down a lot, but the chances are that partner is void of the suit, in which case the double might be the road map declarer needs. It certainly was this time, as D'Avossa very quickly finessed twice against West's ♠J to land his contract. Allegra +790 and 14 IMPs back.

On the very next board, careless partscore declarer play gave Herkules 7 more IMPs and then, a few boards later, the Swedes outbid their opponents at both tables:

Board 16. Dealer West, EW Vul.

		♠ 4 3	
		♥ 9 5 3	
		♦ A K 10 9 8 3	
		♣ A 2	
♠ K J 8 5 2			♠ Q 10 7 6
♥ K			♥ A Q 10 8
♦ Q 7			♦ 5
♣ Q 9 6 5 4			♣ J 10 8 7
		♠ A 9	
		♥ J 7 6 4 2	
		♦ J 6 4 2	
		♣ K 3	

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Nyström	Buratti	Bertheau
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♥ was relay again and 3♣ showed a feature in sort of a minimum hand. Very well bid by the Swedes to an excellent contract with nine top tricks.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	D'Avossa	Sundelin	Ferraro
1♠	2♦	2NT	3♠
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

Johan Sylvan's light opening bid and PO's constructive raise made it very difficult for the Italians to find their NT game. Guido Ferraro did his best with 3♠, but when D'Avossa could not move the game was lost and Sweden had scored another 7 IMPs to lead by 24 again.

Two boards later, the final margin was reached when the Italians outbid the Swedes, for a change, at both tables:

Board 18. Dealer East, NS Vul.

	♠ A 10 3 2	
	♥ 10 7	
	♦ A 8 7 4 3	
	♣ 10 5	
♠ Q 7 5 4		♠ K J 9
♥ J 8 5 4 2		♥ Q 9 6 3
♦ K		♦ J 6 5
♣ 9 6 4		♣ A J 8
	♠ 8 6	
	♥ A K	
	♦ Q 10 9 2	
	♣ K Q 7 3 2	

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Nyström	Buratti	Bertheau
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass

A clear success for the weak NT. Game is on for NS as the cards lie, but they did not enter the auction. On the lead of the ♥AK and a low club continuation, declarer even managed to make his contract for +110 to Allegra.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	D'Avossa	Sundelin	Ferraro
		1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Dble
2NT	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

Once Ferraro could double at the second attempt, D'Avossa could no longer be shut out. 4♦ is a fair contract as you will probably lose a spade, a club and a trump. On the normal heart lead, the favourable breaks in both minors enable declarer to establish clubs quickly without having to lose a trump trick, so 12 tricks were easily made. Allegra another +170 and 7 IMPs back to trail by 17 now.

One more Imp went Herkules' way on the last board, so the final score of the match became 51-33 to Herkules, a 19-11 win in V.P. As the Dutch had recovered a bit to lose by 12-18 only, the latter had gone through to the semis after all. It would be Computerland AZS (Poland) v. Modalfa (Netherlands) as the two Italian teams had to meet in the other semifinal.

RAMBLA DE CATALUNYA

PASSEIG DE GRÀCIA

*The Victory Banquet
and Prize Giving Ceremony*

will be held at

“El Principal del Tragaluz”

*Carrer de Provença 286/288
Barcelona*

Uniform - hrs. 20.00

Enjoy the

**2nd European
Open Bridge
Championship**

in Tenerife
from 18 June to 2 July 2005

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Olanski	Paulissen	Starkowski	Nab
	Pass	1♦	Dble
Rdbl	2♣	2♥	3♣
4♥	Pass	Pass	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Bertens	Balicki	Bakkeren	Zmudzinski
	Pass	Pass	2♣
Dble	5♣	Dble	All Pass

The same contract was reached at both tables and it was even more 'obvious' for Olanski to double since his partner had opened the auction. In the Closed Room the defence cashed their two red tricks; Computerland +550.

In the Open Room Starkowski led ♦A then switched to a spade. When you know by the auction that declarer has only one heart it could be a good idea to cash a trick rather than play a spade when ♠A lies in dummy. However, declarer won the king, drew trumps, played ♠A and ruffed the next spade. Now came ♦Q and the defence had to surrender; an overtrick gave +650 and that was worth 3 IMPs for Modalfa.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

	♠ Q 9 8		
	♥ 10 7 3 2		
	♦ 10 7		
	♣ Q J 7 5		
♠ J 7 5 2		♠ A K 10 3	
♥ A 3		♥ K Q 5	
♦ K J 9 5 4 2		♦ Q 8 6	
♣ 3		♣ A 6 2	
	♠ 6 4		
	♥ J 9 6 4		
	♦ A 3		
	♣ K 10 9 8 4		

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Olanski	Paulissen	Starkowski	Nab
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Bakkeren	Balicki	Bertens	Zmudzinski
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Starkowski opened with one Polish-style club.

On East's strong club-bid West showed canapé in spades and diamonds. Perhaps Olanski should have corrected to 5♦ but it seems as if they were not that close to the six-level.

6♦ is a better contract than 6♠ since you can handle a 4-1 split in spades as one spade will go on a high heart. The Dutch pair Bakkeren/Bertens found the slam after a natural bidding sequence where 1♣ could be short and West showed longer diamonds by definition.

After the first segment the Modalfa were in leading position by 31 IMPs to 14. But in the next session of 12 boards, things started to happen for Computerland.

The Polish team won 10 IMPs on board 15 in a tricky 3NT, when Golebiowski/Kwiecinski got a little help from the defence whereas Balicki/Zmudzinski defended nicely. Then came a bunch of part score swings for Computerland and they left Modalfa behind more and more.

Here came another 11 IMPs for Computerland.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

		♠ 10 2	
		♥ 2	
		♦ Q J 9	
		♣ A Q 10 9 7 4 2	
♠ 7 3			♠ A Q J 8 6 5 4
♥ Q 9 7 4 3			♥ A J
♦ A K 10 4			♦ 8 3 2
♣ J 8			♣ 3
		♠ K 9	
		♥ K 10 8 6 5	
		♦ 7 6 5	
		♣ K 6 5	

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Golebiowski	Paulissen	Kwiecinski	Nab
			Pass
Pass	3♣	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Bakkeren	Balicki	Bertens	Zmudzinski
			Pass
Pass	2♣	3♠	Dble
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

I am not an expert on the Dutch system and as it seems 3♠ in the Closed Room was a bid something in between a pre-empt and a normal overcall. I can understand Bakkeren for not compete with 4♠ if he suspected his partner to have weak cards. Balicki bid 4♣ and was left to play there. The defence had four obvious tricks – one down.

Kwiecinski got a club lead to the ace and Paulissen tried the best he could do by playing a heart. Kwiecinski could afford to lose one heart trick but not two, so he correctly jumped up with the ace to play ♠A

and another trump. A diamond loser could later on be pitched on ♠Q – just made and that was +620 and another 11 IMPs to Computerland.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Golebiowski	Paulissen	Kwiecinski	Nab
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Bakkeren	Balicki	Bertens	Zmudzinski
Pass	1♠	INT	1♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♦
All Pass			4♠

As a double dummy problem you can make 6♦ or 6♠ but in practice it is harder to succeed. Balicki/Zmudzinski were on their way to slam after Zmudzinski's 3♥ splinter, but they stopped in 4♠ after a very long hesitation. Bertens 'sandwich-bid' INT, showing the other two suits, could help the declarer to find the right track, i. e. declarer can let the ♦J run towards the hand. Despite that information Balicki made an ordinary finesse. No show for the vugraph audience at all! Balicki made an overtrick which was not found at the other table, so Computerland gained another IMP.

In fact Modalfa only scored 2 IMPs in the second segment compared to Computerland's 45! That gives us a score of 59-33 halfway through this semi. The rest was an afternoon walk for Computerland...

**Round Robin
Session 5**

Jugando a varios paños

by Pedro Rubiés

.En la 5ª. Sesión clasificatoria, la mayor parte de jugadores en sur se encontraron jugando 3ST con las siguientes manos y terminaron con 1 down:

♠ Q J 2 ♥ 5 ♦ A K Q 8 5 4 ♣ 9 8 4	♠ 9 8 ♥ A Q J 9 7 ♦ 10 2 ♣ A J 3 2
--	---

Tras salir W del 3♠, el J♠ de N y el A♠ de Este, vuelta del 4♠ para el K♠ de W y más ♠ para la Q♠ de N. ¿Cómo juega usted la mano?

Supongamos que la carta de salida de W y la de vuelta de E le convencen, como parece, que el ♠ estaba 4-4 (no es habitual que la defensa engañe tanto en la salida como en la vuelta en la cuenta del palo). Si esto es así, ¿entonces cómo seguimos?

Con el ♦ 3-2, tenemos 9 bazas de cara. Con el ♦ 4-1, hay que blanquear un ♦ por falta de entrada en el muerto, pero entonces sólo contamos con 8 bazas. Por otra parte, si sale el impás al K♥, 5 bazas en ♦ son suficientes. Si no, tras cobrar E-O sus 3 bazas en ♠,

todavía se gana el contrato con la caída del ♦ o una posición favorable del corazón. Este era el caso, pues la mano completa era:

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

Tras ganar la tercera baza en el muerto con la Q♠, el declarante debe jugar el 5♥ para la Q♥. Si Oeste gana con el K♥ el resto del palo es firme y se gana el contrato con 4 bazas en ♥, 3 en ♦, 1 en ♠ y 1 en T. Si Oeste cede la Q♥, blanqueamos un ♦ para cubrirnos contra el palo 4-1 y ganamos el contrato con 5 bazas en ♦, 2 en ♥ 1 en ♠ y una en T.

Un interesante carteo en el que el declarante debe apurar todas sus posibilidades para cumplir el contrato.

Butler ranking after Semifinals

Rank	Score	Name	Team	1	2	3	4
1	1,59	Lorenzo LAURIA - Alfredo VERSACE	TC Parioli	1,49	1,08	1,13	3,58
2	1,31	Andrea BURATTI - Massimo LANZAROTTI	BC Allegra	0,32	0,87	2,04	2
3	1,02	Cezary BALICKI - Adam ZMUDZINSKI	Computerland	-1,21	1,98		2,31
4	0,93	Franck MULTON - Jean-Christophe QUANTIN	Soc Générale	0,92		0,94	
5	0,91	Yalcin ATABEY - Suleyman KOLATA	BC Tofas	-0,3	2,76	0,28	
6	0,83	Juan PONT	Bridge House		0,33	1,33	
7	0,78	Sabine AUKEN - Daniela von ARNIM	Karlsruher	0,73	-0,57	2,17	
8	0,72	Mariusz KWIECINSKI - Stainislaw GOLEBIEWSKI	Computerland		2,02	0,8	
9	0,67	Antonio SEMENTA - Francesco ANGELINI	TC Parioli				
10	0,55	David BAKHSHI - Andrew ROBSON	All England BC	0,54	0,81	0,31	
11	0,34	Michael ROSENBLUM - Larissa PANINA	Zenith Moscow	0,98		-0,31	
12	0,31	Javier GRAUPERA	Bridge House	-0,73	0,33	1,33	
13	0,17	Bart NAB - Gert Jan PAULISSEN	BC Modalfa	0,23	-2,02	-0,8	3,28
14	0,13	Juan Carlos VENTIN - Carlos FERNANDEZ	Bridge House	1,98	0,57	-2,17	
	0,13	Peter BERTHEAU - Fredrik NYSTROM	BK Herkules	0,3	-0,69	0,77	
16	0,06	Vladimir REKUNOV - Jouri KHOKHLOV	Zenith Moscow	-0,54	0,12	0,59	
17	0,03	Jan NICOLAJSEN - Thorvald AAGAARD	One Eyed Jacks	0,43	0,64	-0,97	
18	-0,04	Klaus ADAMSEN - Dennis KOCH-PALMUND	One Eyed Jacks	-0,92	1,74	-0,94	
19	-0,16	Salvador ASSAEL - Nafiz ZORLU	BC Tofas	-0,39	0,69	-0,77	
20	-0,36	Tom TOWNSEND - David GOLD	All England BC		-0,12	-0,59	
21	-0,4	Lionel SEBBANE - Laurent THUILLEZ	Soc Générale	-0,43	-1,74	0,97	
22	-0,64	Jerome ROMBAUT - Jean-Jacques PALAU	Soc Générale		-0,64		
23	-0,73	Jose CREUHERAS	Bridge House	-0,73			
24	-0,81	Evgueni SOLNTSEV - Arseni SHUR	Zenith Moscow		-0,81		
25	-0,84	Huub BERTENS - Ton BAKKEREN	BC Modalfa	1,21	-1,98	-0,28	-2,31
26	-0,88	Johan SYLVAN - Per-Olof SUNDELIN	BK Herkules	0,39	-2,76	-0,28	
27	-0,97	Wlodzimierz STARKOWSKI - Wojtek OLANSKI	Computerland	-0,23		0,28	-3,28
28	-0,98	Jason HACKETT - Justin HACKETT	All England BC	-0,98			
29	-1,16	Tomasz GOTARD	Karlsruher	-1,98	-0,33		
30	-1,21	Josef PIEKAREK	Karlsruher	-1,98	-0,33	-1,33	
31	-1,31	Fulvio FANTONI - Claudio NUNES	TC Parioli	-0,32	-0,87	-2,04	-2
32	-1,33	Entscho WLADOW	Karlsruher			-1,33	
33	-1,82	Norberto BOCCHI - Giorgio DUBOIN	BC Allegra	-1,49	-1,08	-1,13	-3,58

Semifinal A **T.C. Parioli Angelini v BC Allegra** by Jos Jacobs

On Saturday morning, the decisive stage of this European Champions' Cup got underway when they kicked off in both the semifinals. In one match, Modalfa (Netherlands) were playing Computerland AZS (Poland), and in the other match, an all-Italian setting, Allegra Torino were playing Parioli Angelini Roma. Here are the highlights of the Italian match.

Board 3. Dealer South, EW Vul.

♠ Q 7 6 3 2 ♥ J 3 ♦ 10 ♣ A 9 7 4 3		♠ 10 8 ♥ A Q 10 4 2 ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ Q 5 2
	♠ A K ♥ 9 8 7 ♦ A K Q J 5 ♣ J 10 8	
	♠ J 9 5 4 ♥ K 6 5 ♦ 9 8 6 3 ♣ K 6	

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Fantoni	Buratti	Nunes
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Once Fantoni treated his hand as an 18-20 NT, his side was committed to game. Buratti led a low heart which was ducked in dummy. Lanzarotti won the jack and returned the suit, Buratti clearing the suit. The only thing left to do for declarer was to guess the clubs, a rather easy task as defeat would be inevitable if Buratti held the ♣A. Parioli +400.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
Pass	INT	Pass	Pass
2♠	3♦	All Pass	

The NT range made the difference here. When Duboin could not make a further move, game was lost. Not that it was a very good game to be in, but if it can be made, you want to be in it. Allegra +130 and the first 7 IMPs to Parioli.

There were more to come on the next board:

Board 4. Dealer West, All Vul.

♠ K Q 10 9 ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ 7 5 4 2 ♣ Q 8		♠ J 6 2 ♥ A K ♦ Q 9 3 ♣ A K J 9 3
	♠ 7 4 ♥ Q J 10 8 5 4 ♦ K J ♣ 10 7 6	
	♠ A 8 5 3 ♥ 9 2 ♦ A 10 8 6 ♣ 5 4 2	

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Fantoni	Buratti	Nunes
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

As Buratti had to open 1♦ to prepare for a strong NT rebid, Nunes had no reason NOT to lead a low diamond to his partner's king. Even though declarer ducked the return of the ♦J, the contract could not be made as it was South who held the ♠A. Parioli +100.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
Pass	2♥	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

When Bocchi elected to open a weak two, Duboin had no reason NOT to lead partner's suit. Lauria won and quickly played two rounds of spades. When Duboin ducked his ace twice, Lauria ran home for another +600 and 12 more IMPs to Parioli.

Keeping your balance against a weak NT is not always easy, as was shown a few boards later:

Board 7. Dealer South, All Vul.

♠ K 10 6 3 ♥ K J 7 5 ♦ A K 10 ♣ J 10		♠ A 8 7 5 ♥ 9 8 2 ♦ 5 4 ♣ A 7 6 3
	♠ J 2 ♥ 4 3 ♦ Q 8 3 2 ♣ Q 9 8 5 4	
	♠ Q 9 4 ♥ A Q 10 6 ♦ J 9 7 6 ♣ K 2	

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Fantoni	Buratti	Nunes
			INT
Dble	Redble	Pass	2♣
Dble	Pass	3♠	All Pass

In view of South's opening bid, game looks a better proposition than at first glance, but I do not blame Buratti-Lanzarotti for not bidding it. With everything well-placed for declarer, ten tricks were easy enough however, so Allegra scored +170 here.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
			1♦
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Once Versace could overcall INT, he would end up in game if partner would have a fit in either major. On a heart lead, Duboin won the ace and returned the six, which Versace ran to dummy's eight. When trumps broke 3-2, he had registered another fine +620 for 10 more IMPs. Parioli led 29-1 at this point.

Two boards later, we finally saw the first substantial swing to Allegra:

Board 9. Dealer North, EW Vul.

	♠ K	
	♥ 3	
	♦ Q 9 8 7 5 3	
	♣ 10 8 6 4 2	
♠ J 10 9 8 6		♠ Q 7 5 4
♥ A K J 7		♥ Q 8 6 2
♦ J 10		♦ A K 4 2
♣ Q 3		♣ 7
	♠ A 3 2	
	♥ 10 9 5 4	
	♦ 6	
	♣ A K J 9 5	

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Fantoni	Buratti	Nunes
	Pass	1♦	Dble
Redble	2♣	Pass	3♣
Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

On repeated club leads, declarer had to lose control when the trumps turned out to be 4-1. Parioli +200 for down two.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
	Pass	1♦	Dble
Redble	2♣	Pass	3♣
Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	5♣	Dble	All Pass

With combined singletons in both red suits as clear losers, the only thing Bocchi had to do was to establish his diamonds after drawing trumps. Thus, eleven tricks were easy and Allegra had scored +550 for a gain of 8 IMPs.

On the last board of the quarter, we saw aggression from all angles:

Board 12. Dealer West, NS Vul.

	♠ 10 3	
	♥ K 9 7	
	♦ K Q 9 3	
	♣ 8 7 5 2	
♠ K J 7 4 3		♠ A
♥ A 4		♥ J 8 6 5
♦ J 10 5		♦ A 8 7 6 4
♣ 10 9 6		♣ A Q 3
	♠ Q 9 8 3 2	
	♥ Q 10 3 2	
	♦ 2	
	♣ K J 4	

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Fantoni	Buratti	Nunes
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

1♠ is a very light overcall, even more so if red v. green. When Fantoni did not take evasive action, Buratti had sort of an automatic double, which Lanzarotti was happy to sit. The defence was excellent. ♦J to the king and ace and a low heart back. West won the ♥A and returned the suit to the jack and queen. What can declarer do? Another heart was ruffed by West who exited with a spade to partner's ace. A fourth heart was ruffed by West with the jack, and now he made the good move of exiting with ♠K and another, locking declarer in his hand to lead clubs away from his KJx to East. This meant down two, Allegra a much-needed and well-deserved +500.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	INT	All Pass	

When you play light overcalls like these, it might be an idea to make life more difficult for your opponents by responding something. That's exactly what Bocchi did here. As nobody was strong enough to take any further action (West's spade spots don't look that promising, don't they?) he escaped undoubted. On a diamond lead and continuation after west came in with his ♥A, the contract duly went two down here as well, but 7 IMPs had gone Allegra's way.

The score after the first quarter: 32-18 to Parioli.

For the second quarter, the same players would play again in the same positions they had during the 1st segment. The boards, however, were far less exciting than what we saw earlier in the day, with the possible exception of board 13. We lost this board, however, as it was redealt at the table after one of the players took his cards out of the wrong pocket.

A good example of how things were going is board 16:

Board 16. Dealer West, EW Vul.

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

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Fantoni	Buratti	Nunes
1♣	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2♦
All Pass			

As Lanzarotti could not open INT, Fantoni had room to introduce his suit at a very low level. As EW really have nowhere to go, they had to sell out to 2♦ which was made in comfort even though Fantoni mis-guessed the ♦J. Parioli +90.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
INT	Pass	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

At the other table, Bocchi could not bid 2♦ naturally. When Duboin showed a major one-suiter, Bocchi made a disciplined correction to 2♠, thus leaving the proper contract again.

Had he found the ♦J in the play all would still have been well in 2♠ too, but when he did not, he had to go one down, losing two hearts, two diamonds and two spades. Parioli +100 and 5 IMPs.

The only substantial bridge swing of the set occurred a few boards later and it went the other way:

Board 19. Dealer South, EW Vul.

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

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Fantoni	Buratti	Nunes
Pass	3♣	4♠	Pass
			All Pass

As Fantoni-Nunes play very light preempts in 3rd seat, Nunes was not sure what to do when Buratti put him under pressure with a direct jump to 4♠. Well done, Allegra +620. Club lead to the ace and heart switch, but Buratti went up the ace and drew trumps.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
Pass	3♣	3♠	4♣
Dble	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Dble	All Pass

When Lauria overcalled a more cautious 3♠ Duboin could show his willingness to save, accepted by Bocchi two rounds later. This meant +300 only for Parioli, so Allegra had picked up 8 IMPs.

At the end of the set, halfway through the match, the score stood at 48-32 to Parioli. Still wide open.

For the third quarter too, the same players would retain the same positions. On the first board after the resumption, Allegra struck a first small blow, though they were a trifle lucky too:

Board 1. Dealer North, None Vul.

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

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Fantoni	Buratti	Nunes
	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

For systemic reasons, Fantoni could not open in 1st seat. As a consequence, Nunes had a more or less automatic pass when Fantoni invited game later on. With the missing cards all lying friendly, nine tricks were never in danger. Parioli +150.

Open Room:

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

Once Bocchi opened in 1st position, his side was pretty sure to reach game. And so it proved. Versace led a low heart from his holding of AKJx, but it did not matter any more. Allegra +400 and 6 IMPs to close the gap to 10 IMPs only.

A few boards later, Parioli reached a very good minor suit game, only to find out that this could not be made whereas the inferior 3NT was easy:

Board 5. Dealer North, NS Vul.

	♠ 10 6 5	
	♥ A K 8 3	
	♦ Q 8 4	
	♣ A K 9	
♠ A J 7 2		♠ K 8 4 3
♥ Q 7 5		♥ J 10 6 4
♦ 7 5		♦ J 10 9 6
♣ 10 5 3 2		♣ 8
	♠ Q 9	
	♥ 9 2	
	♦ A K 3 2	
	♣ Q J 7 6 4	

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Fantoni	Buratti	Nunes
	1♣	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣

Had the trumps been 3-2 there would also have been squeeze chances against a defender holding 4-4 in the reds. As it was, spades were 4-4 but diamonds and trumps did not behave, so Fantoni had to go one down.

+100 to Allegra. Please note how well NS discovered that they were lacking a spade stopper.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Not very scientific this time, but very disciplined anyway. The final contract depends on the spades 4-4 or avoiding the lead in that suit. When the first condition was met with, Allegra had an easy road to another +600 and 12 IMPs. For the first time in the match, they were in the lead, be it by 3 IMPs only.

On board 10, Allegra picked up a double partscore swing of 6 IMPs to increase their lead to 8, but then Parioli came back strongly:

Board 11. Dealer South, None Vul.

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

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Fantoni	Buratti	Nunes
	2♣	3♥	1♣
1♠	4NT	5♥	Pass
4♥			6♣
All Pass			

Well, 7♦ is well and truly magnificent, but out of reach if the suit is never mentioned. With clubs as trumps, 12 tricks are the maximum. Parioli +920.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
	1♣		1♣
1♠	2♣	4♥	Dble
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
5♥	Dble	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	6♥	Dble
All Pass			

It would have been out of this world, holding this North hand, to imagine that 7♦ was on, so Bocchi duly

respected partner's double. As the spades lay well for Lauria, he managed to lose only three tricks for a score of -300 or 12 IMPs to Parioli. They had gone back into the lead by 61-57 IMPs now and there it rested on the last board of the third quarter.

For the final segment, the four players once again stayed in the same positions. With the match almost level and only 12 boards to play, an early blow might turn the tide to either side. Those who were hoping for action were not to be disappointed, as we saw two swings in a row on the first two boards. This was #13:

Board 13. Dealer North, All Vul.

♠ 10 9 5 2 ♥ 7 2 ♦ 10 9 8 ♣ J 7 5 2	♠ 7 ♥ Q 10 9 6 3 ♦ K J 5 3 2 ♣ 10 3	♠ A K 3 ♥ J 8 4 ♦ A Q 7 6 ♣ 9 6 4
♠ Q J 8 6 4 ♥ A K 5 ♦ 4 ♣ A K Q 8		

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Fantoni	Buratti	Nunes
1♥	Pass	1♣	Dble
All Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥

After sweeping away Lanzarotti's little psyche, Fantoni-Nunes for Parioli reached the normal contract of 4♥ and Buratti led the ♠A on which Lanzarotti played the deuce (count). He switched to a trump, dummy's ♥5 winning the trick. Now, declarer decided to ruff spades in hand, expecting to drop the other honour in two rounds. Spade ruff, trump to the king, spade ruff (yes, right he was!) and trump to the ace. Two more spades and three top clubs brought his tally to ten tricks. Parioli +620.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

At the other table, Lauria made the lead of a low club. Left to his own resources, declarer cashed three rounds of the suit, throwing his losing spade, and played a diamond to the king and ace. A trump came back,

dummy's five again winning the trick. Four tricks in the bag and six more in a possible spade-diamond cross-ruff would have meant 10 tricks, but when Bocchi played one more round of trumps he could no longer make the contract. Parioli another +100 and 12 IMPs. They led by 16 now.

And:

Board 14. Dealer East, None Vul.

♠ 10 7 3 ♥ A 10 8 3 ♦ Q J 2 ♣ 6 3 2	♠ K 8 5 ♥ K J 9 7 5 2 ♦ 3 ♣ K Q 9	♠ A Q 2 ♥ Q 4 ♦ A K 10 9 7 6 ♣ J 10
♠ J 9 6 4 ♥ 6 ♦ 8 5 4 ♣ A 8 7 5 4		

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Fantoni	Buratti	Nunes
1♥	Pass	1♦	Pass
		2♦	All Pass

When Buratti did not show any higher ambitions, EW stayed in a quiet partscore, non-vulnerable. Right they were, as there was no game on for them. Allegra +110.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
1♥	Pass	1♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
		3NT	All Pass

Lauria did show his ambitions when Versace responded 1♥. He upgraded the value of his ♥Q and jumped in spades. Versace could do little else than make a sign-off in 2NT. This had the advantage, however, of inducing Bocchi to assume Alfredo had a real club stopper, so he elected to lead a heart against the final contract rather than a top club. Nicely done: Parioli +400 and 7 more IMPs for a stolen game.

On the next board Lauria and Versace bid and made another thin game, non-vulnerable, which Buratti-Lanzarotti had not bid so the complexion of the match had already changed dramatically: Parioli were in the lead by 85-57. Then came what looked like the final blow:

Board 16. Dealer West, EW Vul.

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

Closed Room:

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

As hearts were never mentioned by NS they did not know they had a good fit in the suit. That's probably why they were not tempted to save against 5♦, a contract that could not be made due to the duplication in hearts in the EW hands. Parioli +200.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
1♦	1♥	3♣	4♦
5♣	Pass	5♦	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Once Bocchi introduced his hearts, NS were likely to compete up to a dangerously high level, as Duboin held the ideal competitive hand with four nice trumps and a side suit of his own. Lauria led a club, Bocchi's ace winning, and a trump was taken by Lauria with the king. Three more rounds of clubs followed, Lauria shedding his two spades and dummy ruffing the fourth club. Next, a spade went to declarer's queen, but Lauria ruffed and led a diamond to Versace's ace. Another spade was ruffed by Lauria and with the ♥A still to lose Bocchi was down five, 1100 more or 16 IMPs to Parioli. It was all over, as Parioli had scored 41 IMPs in four boards to lead by 45.

On the next four boards, Allegra recouped 21 of those 45 but their time had already run out when the last board came up:

Board 24. Dealer West, None Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

On the lead of the ♦9 to the queen and ace, this contract quietly went one down. West won his ♣A at trick two and led his second diamond to partner's king, thereby making life easy for declarer. Parioli +50.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Fantoni	Buratti	Nunes
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

As you can see, they had different ideas here about the bidding. It was the more inspired defence that did the job for Allegra, however. Lanzarotti led a heart to declarer's ace and Nunes next played his club. Lanzarotti was quick to rise with the ace. When he continued ♠A and another, declarer had to hope for the best in diamonds and thus made the standard play of ♦A and a small diamond. As diamonds were 4-2 but without an honour in the doubleton, he thus had to go down three for a worthy +500 farewell to Allegra. Ten IMPs had come back.

This profitable double brought the final score to 106-86 to Parioli, a much closer result than seemed possible a few boards ago. Still, it would be the holders, Parioli/Angelini from Rome, against Computerland AZS from Wroclaw, Poland, for the European Champions Cup. Looking back on the Poles' performance yesterday, one would expect that the stage was set for a close and well-fought final.