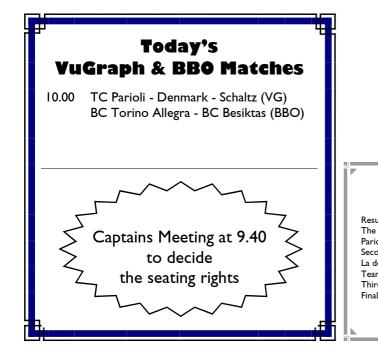


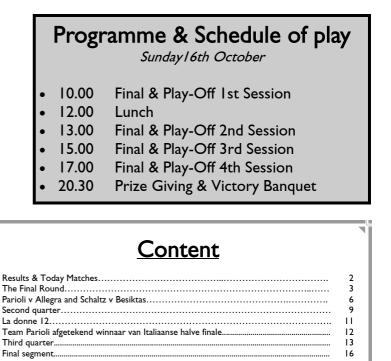
DENMARK TO FACE THE HOLDERS TODAY



TC Parioli - Denmark Schaltz during Round Robin



After an exciting day's play, the final classification of this European Champions Cup is gradually becoming clear. After the first segment, Näsby led Allfrey by 69 but 24 boards later, their lead was just 10. In the end, they won by 67. In all other matches, the halftime imp differences did not exceed 29 and often were just single-figured. The third segment proved decisive in the Schaltz-Besiktas match, the Danish advantage rising to 44, but being only 24 down, Allegra were still in with a chance. In the other matches too, the imp differences with 12 to go were somewhere in the twenties. In the end, it turned out that all leaders had held on, some of them a little narrowly. So it's Parioli-Schaltz for the gold and Allegra-Besiktas for the bronze today.







Quality In Everything We Do





Semifinals A	Session I	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Tot
BC Torino Allegra	I	34	22	17	74
Tennis Club Parioli	18	14	48	65	145
BC Besiktas	34	6	30	20	90
Denmark - Schaltz	22	47	45	36	150
Semifinals B	Session I	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Tot
Chlodnia Star-Tourist Olsztyn	23	25	18	44	110
BC Modalfa	7	34	51	25	117
Nasby BS	76	22	25	68	191
England - Allfrey	7	47	59	П	124
Semifinals C	Session I	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Tot
Russia - Gromov	18	29	37	64	148
BTC Dortmund	20	16	24	11	71
France - Carcy	33	31	0	28	92
B.C.O.B. Brussels	33	17	38	18	106

Results

TODAY MATCHES

Final	
Tennis Club Parioli	
Denmark - Schaltz	

Final	3°/4°

BC Torino Allegra

BC Besiktas

Final 5°	
BC Modalfa	
Nasby BS	

Final 9°

Russia - Gromov

B.C.O.B. Brussels

Round Robin

When the final round of the qualification started, nearly everything was still completely undecided. Of course, a few teams were effectively out already, but 8 or even 9 of the 12 participants were in with more than a theoretical chance of making it to the last four. This was mainly due to the fact that close rivals in the standings had to play each other in both groups. As a consequence, we saw some interesting matches, certainly in the beginning of the session when the boards were very wild. Here are a few examples, taken from two matches: Besiktas v. Brussels and Parioli v. Chlodnia.

Besiktas needed a good win to have any chance of catching up the Belgians and the Dutch, whereas in the other group Parioli looked a certain qualifier – but would they try to oust the Poles, thus offering the Danes and Russians the chance to fight it out between them?

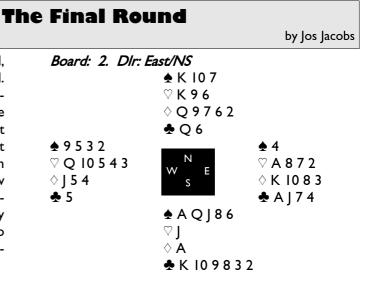
We were not at all disappointed: Parioli did its duty and much more than that, scoring over 50 unanswered imps against Chlodnia to start with. In the other featured match, Besiktas took a big lead against the Belgians and held on to it, thus staying ahead of all their rivals, among them the Modalfa team from the Netherlands who were beaten severely by Allegra, the other Italian qualifier.

So it became clear at an early stage at Parioli and Allegra would meet today in one of the semis, but the other pairing remained undecided till the end of the session.

A few swings from both matches are shown below.

BCOB Brussels took an early lead when they managed to find a good save:





Open Room

West	North	East	South
Engel	Senguler	Dehaye	Dogan
-	-	I¢ Í	Dbl
\square	INT	3♡	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♡	DЫ	All pass	

♠K lead and switch to the \heartsuit J. The \heartsuit Q won and the \diamondsuit J went to the ace. As declarer could not crossruff the whole hand he went down two after all, +300 to Besiktas.

Closed Room

0.0000			
West	North	East	South
Kubac	Labaere V	Zorlu	Labaere A
		$ \diamond$	2 ◇
Pass All pass	3♠	Pass	4 ≜

 $2\diamond$ showed a black two-suiter. On a trump lead, declarer had ample time to draw all the trumps and concede two clubs and a heart. East could not profitably attack the hearts to shorten declarer and West never got the lead to try the effect of the \heartsuit Q! Brussels +620 and 8 imps to them. A good start.

In the Parioli-Chlodnia match, mainly the same happened in the Open Room:

Open RoomWestNorthEastSouthSkrzypczakFantoniSztyrakNunesI◊3♣Pass4♠All passEast led a trump won by declarer who immediately

led a low club from the closed hand. When East rose with the ace and continued $\heartsuit A$ and another, the play was quickly over. Parioli +620 too.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Gierulski	Lauria	Pikus
		🕭	
Pass	2 뢒	Pass	3 📥
Pass	3♡	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	All pass	

At the other table, Pikus overcalled just $1 \triangleq$ so he became declarer in $4 \triangleq$ and got a diamond lead. According to the sound principle of establishing the side suit first he won the ace and immediately led a club to the queen and ace. East returned a trump and Pikus' next move was a club to the king. When West ruffed this, the contract suddenly was one down as the \clubsuit J and \heartsuit A were two inescapable losers. Parioli +100 and 12 imps to them.

On the next board, more fireworks in both matches.

Board: 3. Dir: So	outh/EW	
	♠ 0 7	
	♡ Q J 7 5	
	◊ J 8 7 2	
	🛧 A Q 10	
 ★ ◇ A K 8 2 ◇ A K 10 6 5 ★ K 6 3 2 	W E S	 ▲ K Q J ♡ 10 9 6 3 ◊ 4 3 ◆ J 7 5 4
	🛧 A 9 8 6 5 4 3	2
	♡4	
	◊ Q 9	
	s 9 8 😓	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Engel	Senguler	Dehaye	Dogan 3♠
Dbl	All pass		• -

Rather well done by Besiktas: only one down with no game on for the opponents.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kubac	Labaere V	Zorlu	Labaere A
			4♠
Dbl	All pass		

A little less well done by Brussels: down two with no game on for the opponents. 5 imps to Besiktas.

In the other match, they had other ideas:

Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Skrzypczak	Fantoni	Sztyrak	Nunes	
			4♠	
4NT	Pass	5 📥	Pass	
5◇	Dbl	5♡	Pass	
Pass	Dbl	All pass		

Not so well done by EW with 300 for the taking: Parioli +500.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Versace	Gierulski	Lauria	<i>Pikus</i> 4 ♠
Dbl	All Pass		

In view of what happened at the other table: quite well done by Parioli, 300 to add to the 500 from the teammates for another 13-imp swing to Parioli.

On the next board, we saw another big swing to Besiktas:

Board: 4. Dlr: West/All

	≜] 7	
	♡ K J 9 7 2	
	◊KQ9	
	♣ K 7 2	
🛧 A 8 6 5 3 2		≜ Q 1094
♡ 5	N W E	♡ 1063
♦ 8	s	◊] 5 4 3
👲 10964		∳ Q5
,	¢Κ	-
	♡ A Q 8 4	
	♦ A 10 7 6 2	
	♣ A 8 3	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Engel	Senguler	Dehaye	Dogan
20	Dbl	2♠	3♠
Pass All pass	4 ♡	Pass	6♡

 2^{\heartsuit} showed (among others) a weak two in spades. When Dehaye contented himself with 2^{\clubsuit} Besiktas got all the room they might need to get to their slam. At least, East showed some consistency when he did not take the save either, but his side had lost 1430.

At the other table, Besiktas quickly found their save:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kubac	Labaere V	Zorlu	Labaere A
2♠	Dbl	4♠	4NT
Pass	5 ᆇ	Pass	6�
6♠	Dbl	All pass	

Down three for a loss of 800 and a gain of 12 imps to Besiktas. They were on their way to the semis now.

One board later:

Board: 5. Dlr: North/NS **▲** A K 9 6 4 ♡16 **643** 1065 **▲** | 5 3 Ν ♡KQ73 ♡A9854 ◊ K 9 7 2 ♦ A Q 10 8 📥 A 7 🕭 K | 9 8 **♦** Q 10 8 7 2 ♡ 10 2 ♦ | 5 뢒 Q 4 3 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Engel	Senguler	Dehaye	Dogan
-	Pass	I♡ Í	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
4 ♡	All pass		

2NT showed hearts, but the wonderful fits remained undisclosed. Brussels +510.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kubac	Labaere V	Zorlu	Labaere A
	Pass	\square	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4 \diamond	Pass
4NT	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	6�	Pass
6♡	Pass	7 ♡	All pass

Once Zorlu started off by the very forward-going move of 3 Besiktas could no longer stay out of slam. When 5NT confirmed the void the rest was easy: Zorlu had so much in reserve that he would always go to the grand once given the chance. Besiktas +1510 and 14 imps more to lead by 26 now –already enough to qualify, as it turned out later.

In the other match Parioli dealt their opponents another blow:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Skrzypczak	Fantoni	Sztyrak	Nunes
	Pass	I♥́	Pass
2 뢒	Pass	2 ◇	Pass
2NT	Pass	3 🙅	Pass
3♡	Pass	3♠	Pass
4 ♡	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♡	All pass		

Not good enough: Chlodnia +1010.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Gierulski	Lauria	Pikus
	Pass	\heartsuit	Pass
2♣	Pass	3 🛧	Pass
3♡	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♠	Pass	6 🛧	Pass
60	Pass	7 ♡	All Pass

After the $4 \pm$ splinter and $5 \pm$ general try the Italians would never stay out of the grand any more. Well done by them, as usual, for +1510 and yet another 13 imps.

So as you can see, the foundations of the outcome of both these decisive matches were laid very early on. In the Brussels-Besiktas match not very much at all did happen after this lightning start. Parioli, on the other hand, went on and on with the one-way traffic to finally demolish their opponents 25-3 V.P.

So according to the rules and regulations it would once again be the traditional all-Italian semifinal. It might be an idea worth thinking about to change this rule, as this is not a national teams' contest but a club contest. On the other hand, changing the rule might well mean we will be having an all-Italian final for many years to come...

by los lacobs

The semifinals

Parioli v Allegra and Schaltz v Besiktas

For many of us, the Italian semifinal very much looks like a final. As a consequence, one would tend to concentrate on that match, but that's not my idea for today. We have two semifinal matches in progress so why not try to cover them both?

In fact, covering the Parioli v. Allegra match would have been very much like broadcasting AS Roma v. Juventus in soccer: after one hour's play, that is to say well into the second half, Juventus opened the score to lead 1-0. When they went into the last three boards the score still stood at 1-0; I will turn my attention to that match after reporting about the happenings in the other match on the first nine boards.

On the first board, Schaltz took the lead in convincing fashion:

Board: I. Dlr: N	lorth/None	
	 ▲ A 10 9 8 4 ♡ 9 8 6 2 ◊ 10 6 ♣ 10 2 	
 ▲ Q J 7 6 5 3 2 ♡ A Q 5 ◊ J ◆ 6 5 	W B S E S E S E S E S E S E S E S E S E S E	 ▲ K ♡ K J 3 ◇ A 7 5 4 3 2 ▲ A K 3

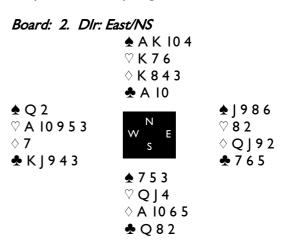
Open Ro	om		
West	North	East	South
Christian	sen Kandemir	Schaltz M	Zorlu
	Pass	♣	3♣
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All pass		

Well, had EW reached the spade slam here, we could only have regretted the disastrous trump break. To reach a slam would have been a tremendous performance anyway, so +420 was a just reward for sound bidding, even more so after the twosuited warning given by South in the auction.

Closed R	oom		
West	North	East	South
Kubac	Bruun	Tarhan	Fredin
	Pass	$ \diamond$	Pass
♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All pass

Of course, West expected more of his spades but when they did not break at all 3NT could not be made any more. Down four, Schaltz another +200 to win 12 imps.

They lost those imps right on the next board:



Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Christians	en Kandemir	<i>Schaltz M</i> 2◊	<i>Zorlu</i> Pass	
Pass All pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	

The nice fancy opening bid did not do EW any good when East made the lead of the $\Diamond Q$. It gave declarer all four diamond tricks when the beer card appeared in West. What was worse: it also lost a tempo so Kandemir ended up with an overtrick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kubac	Bruun	Tarhan	Fredin
		Pass	Pass
$ \heartsuit$	Dbl	Pass	INT
2♣	2NT	Pass	3NT

At the other table, no fancy opening bids and a low club lead by West. As declarer has to give up a

heart and a diamond trick the clubs would always get established in time to set the contract. Besiktas another +100 and 12 imps back.

Not much action until we saw another Fredin double:

Board: 8. Dlr:	West/None	
	≜ 0 8	
	♡ A 8 4 2	
	◊ J 7 5 4	
	👲 Q 5 2	
 ▲ A K ♡ 10 9 7 3 ◊ K 10 8 6 2 ▲ K 6 	W E S	♠ 9 6 5 4 ♡ K J 5 ◊ Q 3 ♣ A J 9 7
	\Lambda Q J 7 3 2	
	♡ Q 6	
	♦ A 9	
	📥 10 8 4 3	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Christian	sen Kandemir	Schaltz M	Zorlu
\square	Pass	2 ◇	Pass
3♢	Pass	3NT	All pass

 I^{\heartsuit} was Canapé and 2^{\diamondsuit} showed 3+ hearts, at least invitational. 3^{\circlearrowright} and 3NT were natural and South led the \mathbf{AQ} . As declarer had to lose tricks to the \heartsuit Q, \heartsuit A, \diamondsuit A and \circlearrowright J he could not come to nine tricks any more and went one down. On any other lead it would have been plain sailing. Well done by Besiktas, +50 to them.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kubac	Bruun	Tarhan	Fredin
$ \diamond$	Pass	♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	DЫ
Pass	Pass	4♣	Dbl
All pass			

At the other table, however, Peter Fredin did not trust the opponents' bidding completely and doubled for a spade lead. This would have led to down two and a small gain, but East surprisingly ran to $4\clubsuit$ which went even three down on a trump lead. Schaltz 10 imps back to take the lead for the second time in the match. On board 10, an extra undertrick gave Parioli 3 imps in their match, so they too went into the lead against Allegra, 3-1 at the time.

On the last two boards of the set, all sorts of things happened:

Board: 11.	Dlr: South/None	
	🛦 K Q 10 5 2	
	♡ A 9 6	
	♦ 10 9	
	🕭 J 6 4	
 ♣ 9 7 ♡ K 5 4 ◊ K 8 7 5 2 ♣ K 10 5 	N E S E A J 8 4 3 ♥ Q 10 8 7 ♦ 6 ♥ Q 9 8	 ▲ 6 ♡ J 3 2 ◇ A Q J 4 3 ▲ A 7 3 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
			Pass
Pass	♠	DЫ	4 \diamond
Dbl	4♠	All pass	

This contract quietly went one off, Parioli +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
D'Avossa	Fantoni	Di Bello	Nunes
			Pass
Pass	Pass	$ \diamond $	
2 뢒	2 ◇	3 뢒	3♡
4 \diamond	4♠	5 ◇	All pass

This contract quietly went one off, Parioli +50. So nothing had happened and Parioli had scored 3 more imps to lead 6-1 now.

In the other match, they had other ideas too:

Open Room West North East South Christiansen Kandemir Schaltz M Zorlu Pass INT Pass 2 Pass 2♦ Pass Dbl Pass Pass 2♠ 3⊘ 3♠ All pass

The weak NT (8-11) warned the Turkish not to go too high. Besiktas +140.

Closed Room

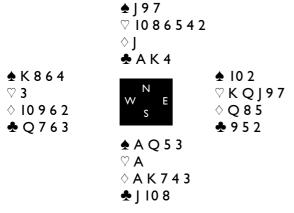
West	North	East	South
Kubac	Bruun	Tarhan	Fredin
			Pass
Pass	♠	2 ◇	2NT
3♠	Pass	5◇	5♠
Dbl	All pass		

Maybe, 5 \diamond would have been a make if EW had been dealt other cards than they were actually holding.

The save cost -300 and the Danish loss thus was 10 imps.

On the final board of the set, more was happening:





Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
Pass	Pass	\square	DЫ
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
All pass			

Bocchi started well after the lead of the $\heartsuit K$: he played a spade to the jack and a low spade back to the ace. The third spade went to West's king and the $\diamond 2$ came back to the ace. Bocchi now proceeded to cash the last spade and the $\diamond K$. East had discarded a diamond and a heart on the spades. If East had come down to his hearts and three clubs including the queen, which looked likely, he could be put in with the $\clubsuit Q$ to give dummy the gamegoing last heart trick, so declarer played accordingly. One down.

Closed I	Room
----------	------

West	North	East	South
D'Avossa	Fantoni	Di Bello	Nunes
Pass	Pass	\square	Dbl
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
All pass			

Fantoni followed a different line. $\heartsuit K$ lead, club to the ace and a spade to queen and king. A spade came back and Fantoni put up the jack. He then cashed the $\bigstar 9$ and led the $\circlearrowright J$, covered with the queen and ace. East discarded two hearts on the last spade and the $\circlearrowright K$, but Fantoni next took the club finesse to land his contract. Parioli +600 and 12 imps to lead 18-1 after the first quarter.

In the other match, a swing to Schaltz looked likely for about 20 minutes as this is what happened in the Closed Room, where they were well ahead of the tempo in the other room:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kubac	Bruun	Tarhan	Fredin
Pass	Pass	2♡	Dbl
All pass			

The defence was excellent: $\Diamond A$, $\clubsuit J$, $\Diamond K$, \Diamond ruff, heart to king and ace, two top clubs and a spade to the ace. On the spade return to dummy's king, North had to come to one more trump trick for down four. Schaltz +800.

When the last board finally reached the Open Room, Martin Schaltz had more revolutionary ideas:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Christians	sen Kandemir	Schaltz M	Zorlu
Pass	Pass	3♡	Dbl
All pass			

Well, this might have gone down five, but Schaltz saved a trick when he took a deep trump finesse. Down four, no swing. After the first set, Besiktas led 34-22, an interesting prospect for the afternoon.

For the first session after lunch the line-ups of all but one teams had been changed. Only the Allegra team continued with their original line-up, as they don't have much choice. So Di Bello-D'Avossa would face Angelini-Sementa whereas Lauria-Versace would face Bocchi-Duboin again, but turned at right angles. I will come back to this match in the report about the third quarter. In the other match, for Besiktas Kubac would replace Kandemir as Zorlu's partner, Senguler-Dogan would replace Tarhan and Kandemir. For Schaltz, Schaltz jr-Christiansen would continue and Bruun-Fredin would be replaced by the Schaltz couple. This replacement worked very well, as the Schaltzes gave us an impressive performance in what turned out to be a very good game overall.

The Besiktas NS pair showed some signs of overoptimism early on:

Board: 3. Dlr: South/EW

 	 ▲ ♡ A J 4 2 ◇ 9 8 4 2 ▲ A Q J 6 4 W s E S E ▲ J 10 7 6 ♡ K 10 8 7 ◊ 10 5 	 ▲ A K Q 5 3 2 ♡ Q 3 ◇ J 7 3 ♣ K 9
	♦ 105 ♣ 832	
	2 052	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schaltz P	Kubac	Schaltz D	Zorlu
			Pass
Pass	♣	I ≜	Pass
2♠	Dbl	3♠	Dbl
All pass			

One level too early: Schaltz +730.

Closed Room

North	East	South
Schaltz M	Dogan	Christian
	-	Pass
∇	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♡	Dbl
Pass	4♠	All pass
	<i>Schaltz M</i> I♡ Pass	Schaltz MDoganI♡2♠Pass3♡

Second quarter

by Jos Jacobs

 I^{\heartsuit} was Canapé, 2 \triangleq was intermediate and the rest was...silence by South who quietly collected another +100 for a gain of 13 imps. Schaltz had taken the lead now: 39-35.

Two boards later:

Board: 5.	Dlr: North/NS	
	🔶 0 9 7 3 2	
	♡ K 5 4 3	
	◇ 4 2	
	🕭 K 6	
≜ K Q J 5		\$ 8 4
♡ A Q 9	N W E	♡JI07
◊ A J 8	S	◇ K Q 7 6 5
뢒 7 4 2		📥 J 9 5
	🛧 A 6	
	♡862	
	♦ 10 9 3	
	뢒 A Q 10 8 3	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Schaltz P	Kubac	Schaltz D	Zorlu
	Pass	Pass	♣
Dbl		2 ◇	Pass
Pass	2 ♡	All pass	

When in doubt, leave your opponents alone, Peter Schaltz will have thought. Down two, 200 with no game on for EW. Of course he knew very well what to do when Dorthe could not move over $2\heartsuit$.

Closed Ro	om		
West	North	East	South
Senguler	Schaltz M	Dogan	Christian
-	Pass	Pass	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass

All pass

3NT

Once again, the light opening made the difference. When the Danish South (for once?) did not open, EW were left to their own resources and quickly reached an understandable but hopeless game. Spade lead, club switch, next board. 7 more imps for Schaltz.

Two boards later, Zorlu had to play very well to save the board but he rose to the occasion:

Board: 7. Dlr:	South/All	
	♠ J 3	
	♡QJ	
	♦ A K 10 9 2	74
	📥 A 4 2	
♠ Q 4		🛧 A 7 5
♡ A K 5 4	N W E	V9732
♦ 8 3 2	S	◊ J 5
🙅 K 9 8 6		🕭 Q J 5 3
	🛦 K 10986	52
	♡ 1086	
	◊ Q 6	
	📥 l0 7	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schaltz P	Kubac	Schaltz D	Zorlu
			Pass
INT	Pass	Pass	2 ◇
All pass			

 2° was Multi but North elected to leave it alone for reasons only known to himself. What's wrong with playing in spades holding Jx of the suit and AK, A?

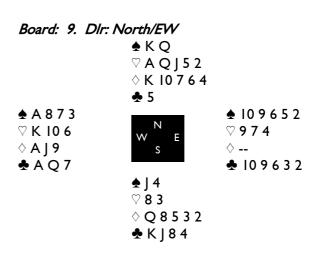
Well, maybe he trusted South's declarer play and in that respect he was quite right.

A trump lead (very good choice by West) went to the queen and a heart was taken by West's king. West shifted to a club, won by East's jack, and back came another trump. Declarer won and played three more rounds of trumps. East discarded two clubs, West a club and a heart. Next came the ♣A and another club to West's king. Having only hearts and spades left, West was forced now to present declarer with his eighth trick in his hand. Nicely played for +90!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Senguler	Schaltz M	Dogan	Christian
-		-	Pass
♣	INT	Pass	2♡
Pass	2♠	All pass	

When West did not open INT (EW don't play weak NT) North could overcall INT and a transfer sequence landed NS in the proper contract.. Just made for +110 and 1 more imp to Schaltz.



South
D Zorlu
INT
3♢
3NT

Some overstretching by North saw the pair go overboard here. Peter Schaltz led a spade and, when in with the $\Diamond A$, made the careful play of another low spade to dummy's king, thus denying South any possible entry to his hand. When declarer next played a club to the jack and queen, the contract went down three without any further problem. Schaltz +150.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Senguler	Schaltz M	Dogan	Christian
•	♣	Pass	$ \diamond $
Pass	2 🙅	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♢	All pass	
(1):6-9 any	• or 10+ 4+♡	-	

Is showed among others 10+ hcp and 4+ hearts, confirmed by the 2s rebid. $3\diamond$ was a natural reply to the second relay, and there it rested. Schaltz another +130 and 7 imps. The score over the first nine boards read 43-1 to them!

On the last board of the set we saw a very neat defence at one table against the partscore reached at both tables:

Board: 12. Dlr:	West/NS	
	≜ K J 8	
	♡Q932	
	◊ J 3	
	📥 K Q 6 4	
♠ A 10 2		é 6 5 4 3
♡ K J 7 5	N W E	♡ 6
\diamond A	s	◇ K Q 6 4 2
🕭 A J 10 8 5		📥 9 7 3
	≜ Q97	
	♡ A I0 8 4	
	\lambda 10 9 8 7 5 \]	
	& 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schaltz P	Kubac	Schaltz D	Zorlu
♣	Pass	♠	Pass
2♡	Pass	3 🙅	All pass

Kubac led a low trump! Had declarer put up dummy's 7, he would have enabled himself to take a view in hearts next, but who can blame him for playing low? So the $\clubsuit5$ won the first trick and all the locals started yelling for champagne, of course. The $\diamond A$ was unblocked and a low heart was taken by Kubac who continued a bold $\pounds K$! Right he was: declarer could still win the ace, ruff a heart and discard two spades on the top diamonds, but Kubac would ruff the $\diamond A$, cash the high trump and exit in spades to leave declarer with two more losing hearts for one down. Well defended, Besiktas +50.

Closed Room				
West	North	East	South	
Senguler	Schaltz M	Dogan	Christian	
♣	Pass		Pass	
2♡	Pass	2NT	Pass	
3♣	All pass			

No inspiration at the other table. $\Diamond J$ lead to the ace, $\heartsuit J$ won by the queen and a diamond back. Though North could ruff the next top diamond, he was far too late to prevent the heart ruffs so the contract made with a overtrick for another +130 and 5 imps to Besiktas.

The halftime scores were: Allegra-Parioli 35-32 and Schaltz-Besiktas 69-40.

The semifinals La donne 12 by Colette Grosfils

La donne 12 de la 1^{ère} séance de la matinée met en valeur le grand art de Norberto Bocchi à la carte mais nous montre que le bridge est loin d'être une science exacte. La plus belle manœuvre qui soit est parfois réduite à néant, c'est pourquoi, nous écrirons pas de chance !

Ouest donneur-Nord/Sud Vul.

	♡ I ◊ V	′ 9 7 0 8 6 5 4 ′ ^ R 4	12	
≜ R 8 6 4		N	♦ 10	
♡3 ◇10962	W	E		2 V 9 7
♣ D 7 6 3			♣95	
	♠ A	D 5 3		
	V A	λ		
	\diamond A	R743		
	📥 \	/ 10 8		
Ouest	Nord	Est		Sud
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	a	Duboin
Passe	Passe	\square		Contre
Passe Fin	ISA	Passe		3SA

Entame du Roi de Cœur pour l'As sec de la table. Norberto Bocchi rejoue le 3 de Pique et le Valet du mort tient. Le 7 de Pique est rejoué dans la même foulée pour l'As du déclarant qui revient d'un petit de la couleur pour le Roi d'Ouest et la défausse du 8 de Carreau en Est. Versace qui ne détient plus de Cœur trouve le retour à Carreau pour le Valet de Nord, la Dame d'Est et un gros honneur de la table. La Dame de Pique est relancée et la défausse du 2 de Cœur en Nord et celle du 7 de Cœur en Est. A ce moment, Norberto a une longue hésitation et choisit le retour du Roi de Carreau en défaussant le 4 de Cœur de sa main. La longue hésitation a-t'elle porté ses fruits et le choix est-il judicieux. ? Le champion italien rejoue l'As de Trèfle de sa main puis le Roi de Trèfle. Ensuite, il dépose son dernier Trèfle en espérant la Dame placée en Est.... ! Malheureusement, la Dame se trouve du mauvais côté et le contrat chute.

Si la Dame de Trèfle avait été placée en Est Norberto, qui avait fait le compte de la main d'Est savait que Lauria serait obligé de revenir dans sa fourchette à Cœur.

Team Parioli afgetekend winnaar van Italiaanse halve finale

by Jan Serras

Na het derde wedstrijdsegment in de Italiaanse halve finale leidde het team Parioli met 81-57 tegen team Allegra.

In het begin van het vierde en laatste wedstrijdsegment wist team Allegra iets van de achterstand op het halen: na twee giften was de voorsprong van team Parioli herleid tot 15 IMP's.

Board nr.3: Zuid gever, OW kwetsbaar

 ♣ H 6 ♡ A V 7 ◊ V 10 3 ♣ H B 8 6 3 	W N E S E S A B 5 ♡ 9 8 ◇ A B 7 6 2	 ▲ V 10 8 7 ♡ B 10 6 ◇ 8 4 ▲ A V 5 2
	📥 10 9 7	

In de gesloten zaal verliep de bieding als volgt

West	Noord	Oost	Zuid
Versace	D'Avossa	Lauria	Di Bello
			INT
DBL	2♡	DBL	pas
3NT	a.p.		

Tegen drie zonder troef startte noord met schoppenvier; in dummy werd de zeven gelegd, zuid speelde de boer bij en de leider nam met de heer.

In slag twee speelde de leider kleine klaveren naar de vrouw in dummy.

Vanuit dummy werd hartenboer voorgezet, voor de heer in noord.

Noord speelde ruiten na voor het aas van zuid. Toen zuid ruitenboer naspeelde kende de leider geen problemen meer: 3 zonder troef gemaakt: 600 voor team Parioli.

De bieding in de open zaal:

West	Noord	Oost	Zuid
Duboin	Fantoni	Bocchi	Nunes
			pas
IZT	pas	3♡	pas
3NT	a.p.		

Noord startte met hartentwee voor hartenboer in dummy. Vanuit dummy werd kleine schoppen

gespeeld en schoppenheer maakte de slag.

De leider, op dat ogenblik reeds verzekerd van acht slagen (vijf in klaveren, twee in harten en één in schoppen) liet zijn lot, gezien het schamel ruitenbezit in eigen kamp, volledig afhangen van een goed zitsel (en goede keuze) in de schoppenkleur.

Niet beseffend dat hij het in schoppen niet goed kon doen legde de leider in slag drie schoppenzes op tafel; dummy werd bevolen de tien bij te spelen en schoppenboer maakte de slag. Zuid speelde hartennegen terug; de leider nam het aas en nam genoegen met één down: 100 punten voor het team Parioli dat aan deze gift 12 IMP's won. Het team zat meteen terug stevig in het zadel; het leidde met 93-66.

Board nr.4: West gever, allen kwetsbaar

	 ▲ B 10 5 ♡ V 6 4 2 ◊ V 5 4 	
▲ A V 8 7 ♡ A ◇ I0 9 7 6 3 ♣ H B I0	 ↓ V 7 4 W E s ▲ H 9 6 4 3 ♡ H 10 9 3 ◇ A ♣ 8 6 5 	 ▲ 2 ♡ B 8 7 5 ◇ H B 8 2 ▲ A 9 3 2

In de gesloten zaal verliep de bieding als volgt

West	Noord	Oost	Zuid
Versace	D'Avossa	Lauria	Di Bello
$ \diamond$	pas	\square	♠
pas	2♠	3♢	pas
5 ◇	a.p		

Dit contract werd gemaakt met een overslag: 600 voor het team Parioli.

In de open zaal bleven OW (Bocchi-Duboin) steken in drie ruiten. Ook hier werden twaalf slagen gemaakt, hetgeen OW slechts 170 opleverde.

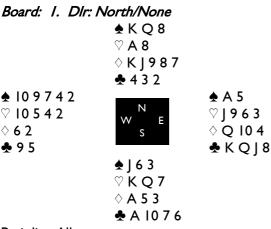
Deze gift leverde team Pariolo netto 450 punten op, goed voor 10 IMP'S.

Met nog slechts acht giften voor de boeg was het duidelijk dat team Parioli zich zou plaatsen voor de finale.

For the third segment of the semis, Allegra would remain unchanged of course but for Parioli, Fantoni-Nunes would replace Angelini-Sementa and face Di Bello-D'Avossa. So at the other table, the four grand masters would continue their battle.

In the other match, Bruun-Fredin came back for Schaltz to replace Schaltz jr and Christiansen, and for Besiktas Kandemir came back to replace Kubac.

Right on board I, we saw successful deceptive plays at two of the four tables in play:



Parioli v. Allegra:

Open Room

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

Lauria led the \clubsuit Q which was won by dummy's ace immediately. Bocchi next went after the diamonds by playing low to the king and continuing with the jack, apparently trying to keep East out of the lead. When East covered the jack and won the next diamond trick this plan had failed and East continued the \clubsuit 8. When dummy played low, the \bigstar A was the entry to two more clubs: one down and +50 to Parioli.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
D'Avossa	Fantoni	Di Bello	Nunes
	INT	DЫ	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	3◇	Pass	3NT
All pass			

Third quarter

by Jos Jacobs

Di Bello too led the \clubsuit Q but when he was given his diamond trick he cashed the \clubsuit K, thus giving away the show and the chance to set the contract. Parioli another +400 and 10 imps to go into the lead again by 7.

Strangely enough, the same defences were found at either table in the other semifinal:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kandemir	Schaltz D	Zorlu	Schaltz P
	INT	Pass	3NT

All pass

Lead: riangle Q followed by riangle 8 to West's nine. One down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	Senguler	Bruun	Dogan
	I¢	Pass	3NT
A 11 - · · · ·			

All pass

Lead: $\bigstar2$ to king and ace, followed by \bigstarQ and, when it held, \bigstarK . Curtains. 10 imps to Besiktas.

Three boards later, game was missed at one table in either match:

Board: 4. Dlr: West/All

	🕭 A 9 5 4	
 ▲ K 9 8 7 6 4 ♡ 7 3 ◊ 6 5 3 ▲ 10 8 	 ▲ A 10 ♡ Q 10 8 2 ◇ Q 9 ♣ K Q J 7 3 	♠ 3 2 ♡ A K J 5 ◇ A J 8 7 2 ♣ 6 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kandemir	Schaltz D	Zorlu	Schaltz P
Pass	Pass	$ \diamond$	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♡
Pass	3NT	All pass	

On a top heart lead and a low heart continuation, Dorthe Schaltz did well to insert dummy's ten. From then on, she was safe for +600 to Schaltz.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Fredin	Senguler	Bruun	Dogan
Pass	Pass	$ \diamond$	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2NT	Pass	3 🛧
All pass			

24 was a weak jump. Dogan must have regretted, at his second turn, that he did not overcall earlier on. At this stage, NS were no longer in a good position to judge, so game was missed. Besiktas +110 when 34 just made, but 10 imps to Schaltz.

In the other match, Duboin too did not overcall so his side also missed game here:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
Pass	Pass	$ \diamond$	Pass
	Pass	2 ◇	Dbl
Pass	2NT	All pass	

Nine tricks, Allegra +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
D'Avossa	Fantoni	Di Bello	Nunes
Pass	Pass	$ \diamond$	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All pass			

When Nunes overcalled, NS were in game. East led the \heartsuit AK and another, Fantoni putting up the queen, but it did not matter once he decided to finesse the \diamondsuit J through East. Just made, 10 more imps to Parioli.

And:

Board: 5. Dlr: N	≜ J 8	
 ₹ 7 5 3 ♡ Q 10 9 7 3 2 ◊ K 10 9 8 ₹ 	 ◇ A ◇ A Q J 2 ◆ K Q J 97 3 ✓ K 6 4 2 ◇ 6 ◇ 7 5 4 ◆ A 10 8 6 4 	▲ A Q 10 9 ♡ K J 8 5 4 ◊ 6 3 ♣ 5 2

Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Kandemir	Schaltz D	Zorlu	Schaltz P	
	♣	\heartsuit	Dbl	
4 ♡	4NT	Pass	5 🜩	
5♡	Pass	Pass	6 뢒	
All pass				

4NT showed minors and Dorthe's forcing pass inspired Peter to go to slam. When Ew did not take the save and the two finesses both worked, Schaltz had registered a rather lucky +1370.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	Senguler	Bruun	Dogan
	ا&	\square	3♣
4♣	4 ♡	5♡	Dbl
All pass			

Correctly judged by Dogan and Senguler, but to little avail. Down two brought them +300 but a loss of 14 more imps. They were suddenly trailing by 43 imps.

A big swing too in the Italian match, and once again Parioli's way:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
	🐣	2♣	Pass
4 ♡	DЫ	Pass	5 🜩
All pass			

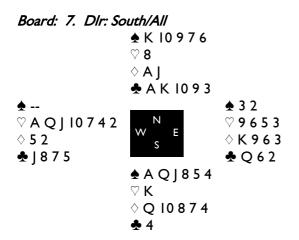
When Versace did not save again, it looked an unfavourable result for them, but at the other table:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
D'Avossa	Fantoni	Di Bello	Nunes
	♣	2♣	2♡
4 ♡	4NT	Pass	5 🛧
5♡	Pass	Pass	6♣
All pass			

This is was can happen if you save again. Forcing pass by North and South accepting the push. Twelve tricks at both tables of course, so another 13 imps to Parioli who led by 40, all of a sudden.

On the next board, Schaltz struck heavily again, but for once, Parioli suffered an even bigger blow:



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kandemir	Schaltz D	Zorlu	Schaltz P
			♠
3♡	4NT	5♡	Pass
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
7 ♡	Dbl	All pass	

This would have been an excellent save again, provided the A would have been with South. Down four, +1100 to Schaltz.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	Senguler	Bruun	Dogan
	-		♠
4 ♡	4NT	5♡	Dbl
Pass	6♠	All pass	

When Fredin led the \heartsuit A the slam could no longer be made. Schaltz another +100 and 15 more imps to lead by exactly 50 now!

Bold gambling bids were made at both tables in the Italian match:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bocchi	Lauria	Duboin
			♠
4 ♡	6♠	All pass	

Lead \$7. Just made, Allegra +1430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
D'Avossa	Fantoni	Di Bello	Nunes
			2♠
4 ♡	6♠	All pass	

Lead: $\heartsuit A.$ Just in time one down, Allegra +100 and 17 much-needed imps back.

Two boards later, the Danish interfered too much:

orth/EW	
▲ Q 8 7 6 5 2	
♡	
◇ K 6 4 2	
♣ 8 2	
	♠ K J 4
	♡A j 108732
	♦ 10
	♣ Q 6
A 3	1 Q V
◊ Q 7	
\Lambda J 10 7 4 3	
	 ♡ ◇ K J 6 4 2 ◆ 8 2 № E S ▲ 3 ♡ K 9 6 4 ◇ Q 7

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	Senguler	Bruun	Dogan
	2♠	3♡	Pass
3♠	4 \diamond	4 ♡	Pass
4♠	Pass	5◇	Pass
5♡	All pass		

This was easy enough in spite of the 4-0 trump break, as there is no communication between the NS hands for a possible trump promotion. Schaltz +650.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kandemir	Schaltz D	Zorlu	Schaltz P
	3♠	4 ♡	Pass
4♠	5◇	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Once too often and a complete misfit too. We can understand that the computer in the Open Room broke down after this auction. On a trump lead (well done) by East the contract went five light for +1100 and 10 imps to Besiktas, who very much needed them.

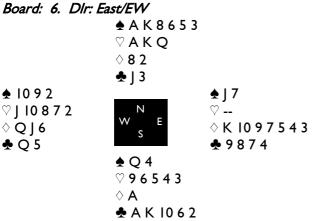
There was little in the last three boards of the set, and with 12 boards to go the scores read:

Schaltz-Besiktas: 114-70 Parioli-Allegra: 81-57.

Would both matches be effectively over?

In the report on the third segment I suggested that both matches might well have been effectively over with just the final I2 boards to play. As we all know by now, this is exactly what happened so it will be Parioli v.Schaltz in today's final. Tonight you will be able to read about the outcome of a match that is looking a very fine prospect for today, but below I collected just a few examples of the way things went both finalists' way last night.

Take for example board 6:



Both major suit grands depend on not much more than a 3-2 trump break and no 5-0 break in the other major. Small slams should be even easier, so staying in game will not make you feel comfortable until you see the actual cruel distribution. In both matches, luck favoured the winners:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Fantoni	Bocchi	Nunes
		3◇	Pass
Pass All pass	DЫ	Pass	4 ♡

To me, bidding 4° seems nowhere near the full value of the South hand, but...just 11 tricks. Parioli +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	D'Avossa	Lauria	Di Bello
		Pass	$\square \heartsuit$
Pass	♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2 ◇	Pass	3 🙅
Pass	3♡	Pass	4 ♡
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♡
All pass			

by Jos Jacobs

Surprisingly enough, the spade fit never got fully disclosed, so two alternatives for a small slam were lost. The bad news was that both 6 - 4 and 6NT are making...Parioli another +50 and 11 not unfortunate imps.

The other match:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kubac	Schaltz D	Tarhan	Schaltz P
		3♢	3♡
Pass	5♡	All pass	

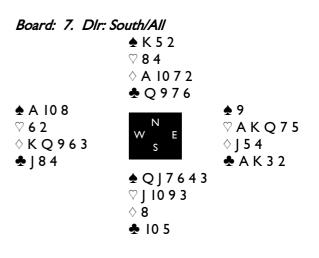
The pre-empt effectively shut out NS: Schaltz +450. They must have felt relieved after this hand...

Closed Room

North	East	South
sen Dogan	Schaltz M	Senguler
-	Pass	I♡ ¯
4NT	Pass	5♡
7♡	All pass	
	sen Dogan 4NT	sen Dogan Schaltz M Pass 4NT Pass

No pre-empt and thus a simple and straightforward, logical auction by Besiktas. More often than not, it would have led to +1510, but this time it was +100 and 11 imps to Schaltz.

And the next board:



Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Duboin	Fantoni	Bocchi	Nunes
			Pass
Pass	Pass	\Box	♠
2 ◇	2♠	DЫ	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♢	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4 \diamond	Pass	4♠	р!!
5♡	Pass	60	All pass

With diamonds 4-1 the contract could not be made. Parioli +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	D'Avossa	Lauria	Di Bello
			Pass
Pass	Pass	\heartsuit	♠
2 ♦	2♠	Dbl	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All pass		

This might even have gone down on the actual spade lead, but when North continued hearts after two rounds of spades, declarer's task became a lot easier. Parioli another +630 and 13 more imps.

A final example:

 ▲ Q 8 2 ♡ 10 9 6 3 ◇ Q 9 4 ◆ 9 8 4 	DIr: East/All ▲ A J I0 9 5 ♡ Q 4 ◇ A 7 6 5 ▲ A I0	 ▲ K 7 6 4 3 ♡ A J 8 2 ◊ 3 2 ◆ 7 3
Open Room	()	

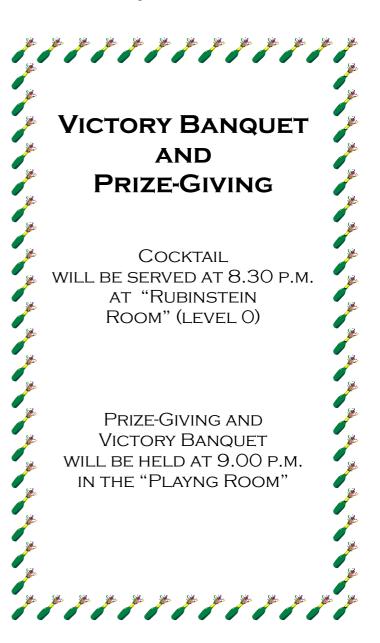
West	North	East	South
Duboin	Fantoni	Bocchi	Nunes
		Pass	♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3 📥
Pass	3 ◇	Pass	4 \diamond
Pass	4♠	Pass	5 📥
Pass	6♣	All pass	

Once Nunes guessed the diamonds, 12 tricks were always there. Parioli +1370.

Closed Room				
West	North	East	South	
Versace	D'Avossa	Lauria	Di Bello	
		Pass	♣	
Pass	$\square \heartsuit$	Pass	2♣	
Pass	2 ◇	Pass	3♢	
Pass All pass	3♡	Pass	3NT	
F				

The same 12 tricks, but at lesser stakes. Another 12 imps to Parioli.

The scores in both final segments: Schaltz-Besiktas 36-20; Parioli-Allegra 65-17.













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