



ALLEGRA: FOUR IN A ROW



Team Allegra - Gold Medal

In spite of being over 20 IMPs down at halftime, Turin's GS Allegra once again emerged victorious after the second segment of the final. They thus register their fourth consecutive (!) win in this prestigious event, and their fifth overall, still one short of Angelini's record six wins.

Their opponents, Germany's Bamberger Reiter, one of the two teams from outside Italy to ever have won the event, did well in most of the final until a well-timed Madala psychic, halfway the second segment, proved too difficult.

However, they too can be proud of themselves: just have a look at their fine slam just before the end of the match. Our sincere congratulations therefore go to both these teams.

The play-off for the bronze was rather easily won by Schaltz, the Danish representatives. They never looked in danger against their French opponents, the Zaleski team.

In the groups B and C, Monaco and Bareket were the eventual winners.



RESULTS

SEMIFINAL

Teams	c/o	1st	Tot	2nd	Total
G.S. ALLEGRA ITA	4.5	39	43.5	47	90.5
ZALESKI FRA	0	34	34	40	74

BAMBERGER REITER GER	0	41	41	26	67
SCHALTZ DEN	2.67	27	29.7	20	49.7

RUCH SA WROCLAW POL	0	20	20	27	47
ALLFREY ENG	2.33	44	46.33	27	73.33

HEIMDAL BK NOR	3	30	33	12	45
MONACO FMB	0	30	30	43	73

BAREKET ISR	6.5	23	29.5	76	105.5
ASD PESCARA BRIDGE ITA	0	40	40	13	53

TITAN BUL	0	45	45	50	95
BK LAVEC SMILE SWE	3.33	45	48.3	39	87.3

FINAL

Teams	c/o	1st	Tot	2nd	Total
G.S. ALLEGRA ITA	0	16	16	52	68
BAMBERGER REITER GER	4	37	41	15	56

SCHALTZ DEN	0	47	47	51	98
ZALESKI FRA	11.67	4	15.67	29	44.67

MONACO FMB	0.5	70	70.5	0	70.5
ALLFREY ENG	0	10	10	0	10

RUCH SA WROCLAW POL	0	22	22	0	22
HEIMDAL BK NOR	0.33	6	6.33	0	6.33

BAREKET ISR	1	52	53	44	97
TITAN BUL	0	25	25	38	63

BK LAVEC SMILE SWE	0	0	0	0	0
ASD PESCARA BRIDGE ITA	2.67	0	2.67	0	2.67



Team Bamberger Reiter - Silver Medal



Team Schaltz - Bronze Medal

SEMIFINAL

Round I



BAMBERGER

v

SCHALTZ



G.S. ALLEGRA

v

ZALESKI



As they would play the same boards in both semifinals, I will follow the board numbers in this report on what happened in the two matches.

Board I proved a remarkable start to the matches. All four North players opened 4♠ and soon found themselves in slam, one way or another.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vulnerable.

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



Three Easts led their singleton heart. The winning line would, of course, be to take dummy's ace, play a trump to the queen, cash ♠A and ♣J and then cross to dummy's ♦A to throw the losing hearts on the top clubs. This seems a slightly better line than playing for the clubs being 4-4 with the outside chance of a defender having to ruff from his doubleton ♠K if clubs are 5-3.

Whatever the best line was, all three declarers who got a heart lead went one down when they went after the clubs rather than played a spade to the queen first.

Mathias Bruun of the Schaltz team was allowed to give himself a much better chance when Häusler led a top diamond rather than his singleton heart. Now, declarer could win the ace, unblock his ♣J and play off ♠A, ♠Q before crossing to dummy in hearts in order to throw heart losers on the top clubs. Alas, this plan also failed when West could ruff the fourth club with the last outstanding small trump.

So no swing in either match but this was to change soon:

Board 2. Dealer East. N-S Vulnerable.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Toffier</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Pilon</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Dbl	2♦	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

On a club lead by North, this contract eventually was made when North got endplayed. Zaleski +120.

At the other table, Allegra showed more aggression, as did the French:



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Bessis T</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Bessis M</i>
Pass	INT	1♥	1♠
2NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	Dbf	3♦	Pass
		All Pass	

Here too, a club was led to the queen and king. Madala next led a heart to dummy's king but Michel won the ace and returned a club to Thomas' eight. Another heart came back, dummy winning the queen and establishing the suit by conceding a trick to South's ♥J. When Michel had another club left, the contract was down three for +500 and 12 IMPs to Zaleski.

On the next two boards, we saw big swings to either team in the Bamberger Reiter v. Schaltz encounter.

Board 3. Dealer South. E-W Vulnerable.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Schaltz</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
Pass	1♠	3NT	1♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Dbf
All Pass			

An abundance of tricks once the defenders have cashed your three top losers. +200 to the Germans.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>Bruun</i>	<i>Hausler</i>	<i>Blakset</i>
Pass	2♥	3♠	INT
3NT	All Pass		Pass

As soon as the defenders stop cashing their top tricks, the rest is yours – if you are the declarer. 3♠ showed a running suit with something extra and explicitly asked for a spade stopper. Another +630 and 13 IMPs to the Germans.

They handed back most of these IMPs on the very next board:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vulnerable.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Schaltz</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

When East simply led his singleton, he duly got his two ruffs in the suit for one down, Schaltz +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>Bruun</i>	<i>Hausler</i>	<i>Blakset</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

When East (once again) refrained from leading his own singleton but went after partner's singleton by leading a heart, declarer could just scramble home as the defenders only had one diamond ruff available now. Schaltz another +620 and 12 IMPs back.

On the next board, a slam was on for NS but only one pair got as far as that:

Board 5. Dealer North. N-S Vulnerable.

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

Allegra v. Zaleski. Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Toffier</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Pilon</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
	Pass	4♥	4♠
5♥	5♠	All Pass	

In the Open Room, nobody found any room for further explorations. Allegra +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Bessis T</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Bessis M</i>
	Pass	2♥	Dbl
3♥	Dbl	4♣	4♠
5♥	6♦	Pass	Pass
6♥	Dbl	All Pass	

When Bocchi opened 2♥ to show his twosuit, the French reached the slam zone alright but apparently were still unsure about the spade fit. They thus contented themselves with defending the save in 6♥ doubled, only to discover afterwards that their courage had cost them 5 IMPs as 6♥ was only three off.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vulnerable.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Toffier</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Pilon</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
		1♣	1♦
Dbl	1♥	2♣	3♦
4♣	4♦	All Pass	

Well, 4♣ is beatable on extra-terrestrial defence (♠K and diamond underlead) but not wanting to get involved in this, Bianchedi settled for a diamond raise. Duboin went the normal two off for a slightly under par result. Zaleski +200.

At the other table, they were having a shot at beating par:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Bessis T</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Bessis M</i>
		1♣	1♦
Dbl	1♠	2♣	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The combined NS half-stoppers in the rounded suits did not produce any full stopper so the defence was bound to have the last word on this deal. To prevent any misunderstandings in defence, Madala threw the ♥9, a clear signal, on the run of the clubs. This explains why the contract went only down six. Still, +600 gave Allegra 9 IMPs instead of a possible 11.

Apart from an expensive defensive mistake on board 11 which gave the Germans 11 IMPs, nothing very much had happened in the German-Danish semifinal. The closing boards of the set did not change this pattern but in the Allegra-Zaleski match, the scoreboard kept moving. This was their board 12:

Board 12. Dealer West. N-S Vulnerable.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Toffier</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Pilon</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Dbl
2♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Some classic French overbidding led to an inferior game contract that could not be made. One down, Allegra +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Bessis T</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Bessis M</i>
INT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Redbl	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass



The Italians did much better when they stopped at a safe level. When the French balanced, they had to pay the full fare. Down three, +800 and 13 IMPs to Allegra. But then:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vulnerable.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Toffier</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Pilon</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Classic French slam bidding this time, to an excellent contract. Zaleski +1460 on a club lead.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Bessis T</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Bessis M</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

The uninspired direct jump to 4♥ got what it deserved. Allegra +710 on a club lead but 13 IMPs back to Zaleski. And:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vulnerable.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Toffier</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Pilon</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
		Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♣	All Pass

What's the problem? One overtrick on this rather friendly layout, marked by South's opening bid. Zaleski +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Bessis T</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Bessis M</i>
		Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	2♠	All Pass

Again, a slight lack of inspiration by Madala who could not find anything sensible over partner's 2♠. The same 11 tricks but 6 IMPs more to Zaleski.

At halftime, Allegra was 9,5 IMPs up v. Zaleski and Bamberger Reiter led Schaltz by 11,3 IMPs, both scores including the carry-overs.



SEMIFINAL

Round 2



BAMBERGER

v

SCHALTZ



G.S. ALLEGRA

v

ZALESKI



The action in both the semis started on the third board of the set when placing the declaration in the most appropriate hand paid fine dividends.

scored 10 IMPs when the French declarer later misguessed the diamonds. Shortly afterwards, we saw a series of consecutive swings to Zaleski:

Board 19. Dealer South. E-W Vulnerable.

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

Board 21. Dealer North. N-S Vulnerable.

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

Bamberger Reiter v. Schaltz, Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schaltz P.	Piekarek	Schaltz D.	Smirnov
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♣

Smirnov's 2♣ showed at least 5-5 with hearts and another, so Piekarek had an automatic jump to game..

When East led a spade to West's ace and a club came back, Piekarek could run the ♠J after winning the club return, to dispose of dummy's club loser. When the spades did not break, he later guessed right in diamonds so he came to ten tricks after all for a 10-IMP swing to the Germans.

In the other room, the Danish declarer went down by misguessing the diamonds.

The same game swing occurred in the Allegra-Zaleski match, when the French defender led a diamond, thus solving declarer's problem. When Madala led a club, Allegra



Open Room

West	North	East	South
T.Bessis	Bianchedi	M.Bessis	Duboin
Pass	Pass	4♥	All Pass

A remarkable pass by Duboin still resulted in a plus score for his side as 4♥ went one off. Allegra +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Cronier	Bocchi	Zaleski
Pass	Pass	4♣	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

When Bocchi opened 4♣ to show running hearts, it became easy for NS to locate their diamond fit. Zaleski +600 and 11 IMPs to them.

In the other match:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schaltz P.	Piekarek	Schaltz D.	Smirnov
5♥	Pass	4♥	Dbl
	Dbl	All Pass	

The preventive measures here by Peter Schaltz worked well when North could only double. Down two, +300 to the Germans

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Haeusler</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>Schaltz</i>
	Pass	4♥	DbI
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The Danes showed more courage here and were rewarded nicely with some friendly breaks. Just made for +620, 8 IMPs to Denmark.

Next came:

Board 22. Dealer East. E-W Vulnerable.

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

Allegra v. Zaleski: Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>T.Bessis</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>M.Bessis</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
		Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		



A normal bidding sequence for ten tricks. Cronier +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Zaleski</i>
		Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	DbI
Redbl	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♠	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

An incomprehensible bidding sequence for even 11 tricks. Zaleski +100 and another 12 IMPs.

And then, to finish it off for Allegra:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vulnerable.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>T.Bessis</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>M.Bessis</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	DbI	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Bianchedi led a club to dummy's king. Declarer played off one top diamond and then ran the ♥J. When this brought down North's ace, Thomas was home. Zaleski +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Zaleski</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	DbI	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

EW here reached the normal contract even more quickly than in the Open Room but Madala also went down very quickly: club to dummy's king and ♥J overtaken by the king. North won the ace perforce and continued another low club...Down two, Zaleski +200 and 13 more IMPs to them to take the lead: 70-56.

In the German-Danish encounter, this hand proved deci-

sive when the Danish declarer went down in rather similar fashion for a 12-IMP loss from which the Schaltz team never recovered on the remaining mostly rather flat boards.

Two boards later in the GS Allegra v. Zaleski match, we saw an unusual NS misunderstanding on what was about the only not so flat boards of the latter part of the set.

Board 25. Dealer North. E-W Vulnerable.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
T.Bessis	Bianchedi	M.Bessis	Duboin
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dbl	4♠	5♣	All Pass

Duboin led the ♥A on which Bianchedi contributed the seven. A diamond shift then put the contract one down when Bianchedi could ruff this. Allegra +100.

In the replay, Cronier found an original way to show his major two-suiter when Madala crowded the auction with his immediate raise to the five-level.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Cronier	Bocchi	Zaleski
	Pass	3♣	Pass
5♣	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Redbl	All Pass	

Wouldn't you as South have become a little suspicious holding two aces, a king and five trumps opposite partner's voluntary redouble? No doubt, an auction like this never occurred before but the resulting score after South's Pass was a well-known telephone number in journalists' circles. Down seven, Allegra +3,400 and in the lead again with this 23-IMP swing.

Mind you, had South been declaring 5♥, only the lead of the ♠A and another would beat it for sure, as East can ruff with his lone trump. If declarer cashes just North's top trump and plays on spades, he will get home...

In this match, too, a series of flat boards was to follow. It would thus be GS Allegra, the holders, against the Bamberger Reiter, Germany's representative, in the final.

FINAL

Round 1



G.S. ALLEGRA

v

BAMBERGER



At 15.30 hrs. local time this Saturday, while the torrential rain was still pouring down, the two teams who finished top of the Round Robin over the previous two days sat down to fight it out for the title.

The Germans (Bamberger Reiter, using the Bavarian city of Bamberg's symbol as their team name) started the match with a carry-over of 4 IMPs because they had won the direct match with GS Allegra, the defending champions from Turin, in the Round Robin.



After a 3♣ pre-empt by dealer North at both tables made it rather difficult for EW to reach a fine slam on the opening board (the Schaltz team got to slam in the play-off for 3rd place when North did not preempt), Allegra immediately wiped out the deficit on the next board:

Board 2. Dealer East. N-S Vulnerable.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Haeusler</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Fritsche</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
2♠	Dbl	1♠	2♣
Pass	5♦	4♠	Pass
		Dbl	All Pass

This proved a fine shot. In fact, 5♦ was defeated only because declarer cannot come back to his hand twice to first ruff his last spade and then draw the outstanding trumps. When he tries to cash both of dummy's top clubs for that purpose, West will ruff. One down, +200 to the Germans

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
2♠	3NT	1♠	2♣
4♥	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass	Dbl	4♠	Pass
		All Pass	

South led a top club and switched to a diamond but it did not really matter as declarer should always be able to come to at least ten tricks. Allegra +590 and 9 IMPs to grab the lead...

...only to lose it again on the next board:

Board 3. Dealer South. E-W Vulnerable.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Haeusler</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Fritsche</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
All Pass			3♠



When Duboin's 3♠ got respected all around the table, West led his singleton club. Dummy's ace was called for and a low spade went to East's ace. ♣K, club ruff with the jack, ♥A and a diamond to dummy's ace enabled declarer to finesse the ♠Q through East for his contract.

Smirnov also opened 3♠ at the other table, but rather than respect he provoked action:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
4♥	4♠	Dbl	3♠
Pass	Redbl	Pass	Pass
4NT	Dbl	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

A well-timed redouble by Piekarek made it less automatic for EW to assess the situation. When Madala ran, North's gamble had well and truly come off. Down three, +800 and 12 IMPs to the Germans. It would have been down four had declarer not gone up with the ace when North led a spade, to continue ♥A and another.

Many of the remaining boards of the set required some standard discipline and concentration from the players, I felt. Take for example board 10:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vulnerable.

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

The board drew my attention as it was no means clear, at first sight, where the 8-IMP swing had come from.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Haeusler</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Fritsche</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
2♥	Pass	1♣	Pass
		2NT	All Pass

For Bamberg, Fritsche made an unlucky start when he did not put up dummy's nine when Duboin led a diamond. It seemed as if this did not disturb him at all as he simply continued the ♠Q after winning the first trick in hand with the ♦J. North ducked the ♠Q and a club to dummy's queen and North's king came next. Bianchedi returned a diamond, of course, Duboin allowing declarer's queen to hold the trick.

Next, Fritsche played the ♡J from hand, Duboin taking his king and exiting in the suit. Fritsche could win his ace now, cash two top clubs bringing his tally to six tricks, and then endplay North by playing a heart to dummy's queen and a heart off dummy. North had to concede a spade to dummy in the end. Well read and well played for +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Piekarek	Bocchi	Smirnov
1♡	Pass	1♣	Pass
2NT	All Pass	2♦	Pass

In the other room, Madala played 2NT from the West hand and was treated to the friendly looking ♡10 lead. South won his king when dummy played low and led a spade which North took with the king. Back came a heart to dummy's jack and Madala's next move was a club to his queen and North's king. North persisted with hearts, dummy's ace winning. Now came a top diamond, immediately won by South who led another spade. North won his ace and, realising that declarer's hand was dead now, safely exited in clubs. Dummy could cash two top clubs and two more diamonds but then had to hand over the last two tricks to South's good club and diamond. Down two on what really looked like an innocent deal, 8 more IMPs to Bamberg who led 41-16 at halftime.

FINAL

Round 2



G.S. ALLEGRA

v

BAMBERGER



On the first of the final 16 boards of this final we saw a terrible German misunderstanding.

spade finesse but when nothing worked, he was down three. Allegra +150.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vulnerable.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Haeusler	Bocchi	Gromoller	Madala
2♡	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♡	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
		4NT	All Pass

When West showed some interest in a spade contract after all, East got visions of a slam. Rightly so, as 12 tricks are cold on any lead except a diamond, whereas on a diamond lead you still have quite reasonable chances. The message was lost on West so all of a sudden, the Germans were in a precarious contract, even more so on a ♡Q lead and a diamond continuation. Gromöller did his best by winning the 3rd round of diamonds and then first cashing the two top hearts (the queen might drop) before taking the

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Piekarek	Bianchedi	Smirnov
2♡	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♡	Pass	2♠	Pass
		3NT	All Pass



Against this more normal contract, South led a low diamond. East won the 3rd round of the suit and then, placing the diamond length in South, ran the ♠9. North could win his queen but declarer had the rest. Allegra +430 and 11 IMPs back, about half their deficit. The match looked open again.

On the next board, both teams missed a good non-vulnerable save against a cold vulnerable game. In fact, it would have needed correct defence or the "save" would turn into a making contract.

After this missed chance for either team, Allegra rallied twice in succession:

Board 19. Dealer South. E-W Vulnerable.

♠ J ♥ J954 ♦ KQ84 ♣ A853	♠ K1063 ♥ AK7 ♦ 5 ♣ Q9642	♠ Q98 ♥ Q86 ♦ A109762 ♣ K	<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	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ A7542 ♥ 1032 ♦ J3 ♣ J107											



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Haeusler</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Gromoller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥(1)
3♠	4♣	5♦	All Pass

1♥ showed spades.

Bocchi's immediate jump put his opponents under pressure. 4♣ can go down two on a heart lead but would you believe that after partner's splinter? 5♦ also went one down, Allegra +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥
1♠	2♣	3♦	3♠
Dbl	Pass	4♦	All Pass

Par was duly reached here so Allegra scored another +130 and 6 IMPs.

And the next board:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vulnerable.

♠ KQ742 ♥ K ♦ A8542 ♣ 97	♠ 103 ♥ Q987 ♦ QJ97 ♣ KQ2	♠ J865 ♥ J10652 ♦ K10 ♣ 63	<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	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ A9 ♥ A43 ♦ 63 ♣ AJ10854											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Haeusler</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Gromoller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1♠	Pass	2♠	2NT
Pass	3♣	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Over 2♠, Madala just had room to take action and show this type of hand (strong minor suit overcall) by bidding 2NT. In fact, 3NT is cold for NS but this might be difficult to bid. On the same lucky layout in hearts, 4♣ also rolled home. Allegra +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
1♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Bianchedi's 3♠ duly silenced everyone. Another careful+140 to Allegra and 7 IMPs.

The German lead had been cut to just 1 IMP so it might just get more and more exciting...

Not quite, as a series of flat boards was to follow on which Allegra managed to score a few more IMPs to lead by 1 when this board came up:

Board 25. Dealer North. E-W Vulnerable.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Nothing exciting here, ten easy tricks. Allegra +630 on what very much looked like another flat board.

In the Open Room, Madala launched a semi-psychoic transfer bid which turned out to be very annoying for the opponents:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Haeusler</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Gromoller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1NT	Pass	2NT
Dbl	3♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

1NT was 10-12 and 2NT showed any minor. Take it from there, with the EW cards. Consistent doubling is best but how can you know, even though it is obvious they are trying to fool you?

According to GIB, 4♠ should be makeable but at the table, finding that line is asking really too much. One down, Allegra +100 and 12 IMPs to suddenly lead by 13.

On board 27, Allegra gained another 10 IMPs by taking an immediate double heart finesse, holding AK98 opposite 10xx, rather than play a top heart first to cater for a singleton honour.

Then came a slam:

Board 28. Dealer West. N-S Vulnerable.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Haeusler</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Gromoller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

The Italians' Turbo (North showing an odd number of aces when bidding 4NT) resulted in the slam being missed as North's club void had not come to light at any time. Allegra +680.

In the other room, the Germans produced a nice auction:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

3NT showed a minor suit splinter in a weakish hand. 4♣ then asked and 4♥ confirmed a club splinter. When Smirnov next checked aces nevertheless, the splinter grew in stature as Piekarek would show his club void now. Nicely bid to reach the slam in style. +1430 and 13 IMPs back to the Germans.

It did not turn the tide for them, however, as the match had already almost run out of boards. There was far too little in the last four, so GS Allegra eventually won 68-56.