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MONACO INTO TOP 4 ON LAST 4 BOARDS



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At the start of the second day of the Round Robin, only the overnight leaders from the Netherlands were pretty certain to qualify. 't Onstein quickly put their qualification beyond reasonable doubt when they won their 7th and 8th match as well. Only then, they started losing by small margins but when the German Reiter did not take full advantage of this but rather lost their final match as well, the Dutch were still first past the post..

Lower down the table, Monaco had finally started a rally. They lost their first match of the day against Villa Fabbriche but three consecutive good wins brought them to within striking distance of the 4th placed team, GS Allegra – who happened to be their opponents in the last match of the day. As the V.P. difference was just under 12, a win by more than 19 IMPs would see Monaco catch up GS Allegra and thus qualify after all. When the smoke had cleared, Monaco had won by 30, mainly due to two big swings on boards 17 and 19. They just failed to catch up the Germans and the Norwegians (Heimdal), whose defeats at the hands of Skalman and Radkov respectively were just small enough for them to stay in 2nd and 3rd place.

It would be 't Onstein v, Heimdal and Bamberger Reiter v. Monaco for today's semi-finals.

CLOSING CEREMONY

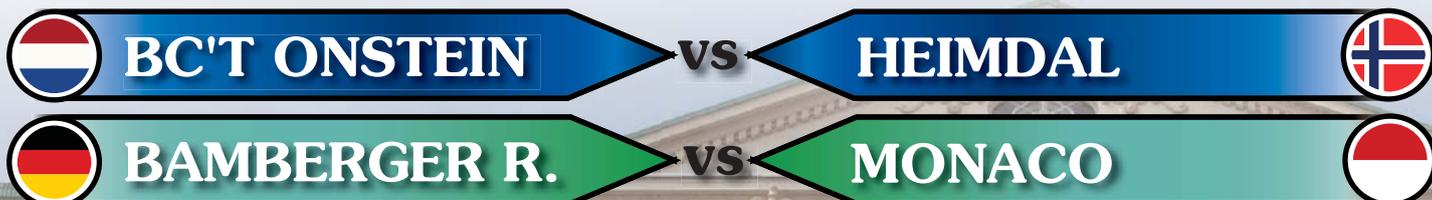
The Prize-Giving & Closing Ceremony will take place on Saturday 12th November in the Istanbul room at 21:00. A cocktail will be served at the end of the Ceremony



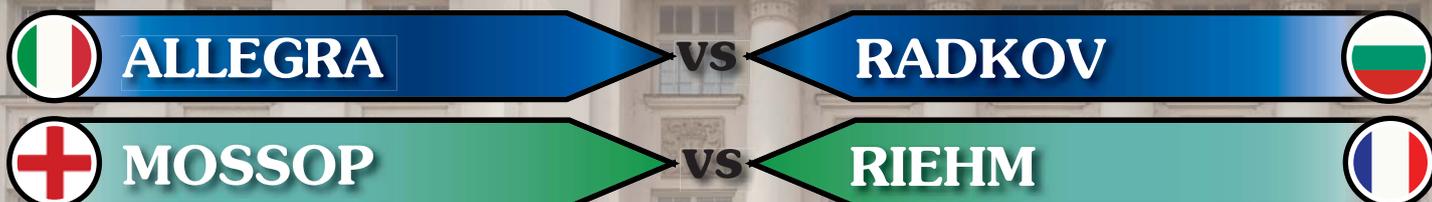


MATCHES TODAY

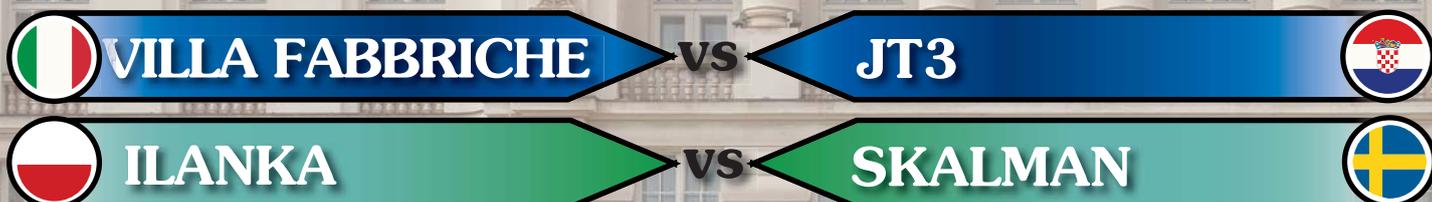
SEMIFINALS GROUP A - (1ST - 4TH)



SEMIFINALS GROUP B - (5TH - 8TH)



SEMIFINALS GROUP C - (9TH - 12TH)





ROUND ROBIN, ROUND 6

by Jos Jacobs

BAMBERGER R. vs HEIMDAL

At the start of Thursday's last round of play, Norway's Heimdal were in 3rd place, about 6 V.P. ahead of their nearest rivals LT Ilanka from Poland and about 7.5 V.P. ahead of their 6th round opponents, Germany's Bamberger Reiter. The Norwegians had been doing well in their most recent matches of the day whereas the Germans had scored some good wins but some rather heavy defeats as well and thus had to make good some ground.

Taking into account that four teams will proceed to the top semifinal group, it should be clear that just a few V.P. over average after 11 rounds might well be enough to finish in the top four, even more so if 't Onstein and GS Allegra would continue to do well.

So both teams had everything to play for. Right on the first board, the fight got underway.

Board: 21. Dlr: North/NS

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

West	North	East	South
Groethem	Jagniewski	Tondel	Gawel
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

On this auction, South's double could only suggest a running suit or a solid suit with a side entry so North had to find partner's suit. This proved not too difficult so when he led a club, the contract was quickly one down. +100 to the Bamberger Reiter.

♠♥♣♦

West	North	East	South
Häusler	Berg	Gromöller	Austberg
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In the other room, EW produced the same auction but when nobody doubled, North led a spade which gave declarer his 12th trick. Another +490 and the first 11 IMPs to the Bamberger Reiter.

Heimdal hit back strongly on the very next board:

Board: 22. Dlr: East/EW

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

West	North	East	South
Groethem	Jagniewski	Tondel	Gawel
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

On this normal enough auction, there was no way for NS to find out that, together, they were having a sound double of 2♠. When North led an unlucky heart, dummy's queen scored a trick and declarer went on to escape for just down two when he played a club to the queen and king and the defenders did not find their ruff in that suit. Bamberger Reiter +200.

At the other table, we saw an 8-12 NT in operation:

West	North	East	South
Häusler	Berg	Gromöller	Austberg
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Dble	Pass	Pass	Redbl
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

When North passed the mandatory redouble, East had to rescue himself but the big difference was that on this auction, NS knew that together, they indeed had a double.

The defence was merciless. $\diamond A$, $\diamond 10$ to jack and queen, low diamond ruffed and a heart through. North won the king when declarer ducked and next found the fine shift to the $\clubsuit K$, not so difficult any more in view of dummy. When it held, he continued the suit to get his ruff and could then play his last top diamond. South overruffed declarer's $\spadesuit 7$ and returned another club on which North scored his $\spadesuit Q$ en passant. The defenders had thus managed to win the first nine tricks for a score of +1100 to Heimdal and 14 IMPs.

On the next board, the Norwegians at the other table were looking for a big penalty as well:

Board: 23. Dlr: South/All

<p>\spadesuit A K 6 3 \heartsuit Q 10 7 6 \diamond J \clubsuit K J 9 4</p>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W S E </div>	<p>\spadesuit Q J 8 4 \heartsuit A J 9 3 \diamond K 3 \clubsuit A 10 8</p>	<p>\spadesuit 10 7 5 \heartsuit K 8 5 4 \diamond 7 6 4 \clubsuit Q 7 3</p>
---	---	---	---

West	North	East	South
Groetheim	Jagniewski	Tondel	Gawel
			Pass
3 \diamond	Dble	Pass	3 \heartsuit
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West led a spade to dummy's ace and declarer gave up a diamond. West overtook partner's king and returned a trump to East's nine and declarer's king. From here, declarer could continue on almost double-dummy lines. He led a club to dummy's king which was taken by East's ace and the $\spadesuit Q$ came back to dummy's ace. Declarer next cashed the clubs, East ruffing the 13th club low and declarer overruffing. A diamond ruff and a spade exit then gave declarer eight tricks. Heimdal a disappointing +200 only.

West	North	East	South
Häusler	Berg	Gromöller	Austberg
			Pass
3 \diamond	Dble	3NT	All Pass

At the other table, Gromöller took a more practical view. No experiments but a sound and simple 3NT. Ten tricks on a heart lead, Bamberger Reiter +630 and 10 IMPs back to them to lead 21-14 after just 3 boards.

Board 24 was flat and on #25 the Bamberger Reiter scored another 6 IMPs on a partscore going down at both tables.



Peter Tondel

Board 26 was more interesting as declarer was squeezed at one table:

Board: 26. Dlr: East/All

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

West	North	East	South
Groethem	Jagniewski	Tondel	Gawel
		Pass	1♣
Dble	1♠	Pass	1NT
Dble	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

In the Open Room, the Polish Club and North's 1♠ response replacing the "natural" 1NT made it difficult for EW to assess the situation. A club contract would have been fine for them but how to get there? West was too strong to simply pass 2♥ but 2♠ was not quite the place to be. Two down, Bamberger Reiter +200

West	North	East	South
Häusler	Berg	Gromöller	Austberg
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	Pass	1NT
Dble	All Pass		

At the other table, South did not open and had to pay the price for losing the initiative. His balancing 1NT was perfectly OK but he ran into a rather cruel adverse distribution.

Had the defence led a club, declarer's life would have become even more unpleasant but West cannot possibly be blamed for leading a low spade from his five-card suit. Declarer won his jack and played off the ♦A, felling the king. Good news and bad news. He continued a spade but West went up with his king and returned a low club. Dummy's ten won and another spade went to West's ace. When West exited with the ♣A and another, the lead again was in dummy but, more important, declarer's hand was dead as the ♥AQ were behind his ♥KJ. Declarer could do little else

than play a low heart to his jack but West won and led his last club to partner's eight, squeezing declarer in the process. He had to discard from his established spade, the ♥Kx and the ♦10x. When he threw a diamond, East could exit with the ♦J to put declarer in dummy again. Back in dummy, declarer then erred by exiting in diamonds rather than hearts, thus going one down rather than one up. West would have won his ♥A but declarer would have had the last two tricks. This looks like a clear case of tiredness after a long day's play but that's the way it is...Bamberger Reiter another +200 and a surprise 9 more IMPs.

Two boards later, the Norwegians went two down in 1NT at both tables – one of those cases in which the right to deal the first blow gives your side a decisive advantage.

Board: 28. Dlr: West/NS

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

West	North	East	South
Groethem	Jagniewski	Tondel	Gawel
1NT	All Pass		

North led a heart to the jack and queen and declarer next went after the diamonds, North ducking the first two rounds of the suit. When declarer continued diamonds, North cashed his two tricks and continued a heart, South winning the ace and clearing the suit. A low club from dummy then went to declarer's queen and North's king. North immediately returned a club to dummy's ace. A spade came next but South played the jack and North took declarer's king with his ace and cashed his 13th heart. The last two tricks then went to South's ♠Q and ♣J. Down two, Bamberger Reiter +100.

West	North	East	South
Häusler	Berg	Gromöller	Austberg
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

At the other table, the Norwegians also were in 1NT and East led the ♠9 to dummy's queen. Declarer next

ducked a heart to West's nine and his spade return went to declarer's ace. When declarer continued the ♡A and another, East could win the king and lead a spade through for partner to make two tricks in the suit.

West then correctly shifted to the ♦9, covered by ten and jack. East's return of the ♦K went to declarer's ace but the established 13th heart was declarer's last trick as East still had a diamond left to reach his partner. Another case of down two and +200 to Bamberger Reiter, good for another 7 IMPs to them.

On the next board, tiredness probably played its part again but this time to Norwegian advantage.

Board: 29. Dlr: North/All

♠ K J 8 3
 ♡ Q 10 7 3 2
 ♦ 7
 ♣ J 7 5

♠ Q 10 7
 ♡ A 9 8 4
 ♦ Q
 ♣ A Q 8 4 3



♠ 9 4 2
 ♡ K J 5
 ♦ J 5 4 3
 ♣ K 9 2

♠ A 6 5
 ♡ 6
 ♦ A K 10 9 8 6 2
 ♣ 10 6

West	North	East	South
Groethem	Jagniewski	Tondel	Gawel
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dble	1♥	1NT	2♦
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

As you can see, 3NT in EW is off six top tricks but when South led three rounds of diamonds, declarer could run home with the help of a successful heart finesse. Heimdal +600.



 **Wojtek Gawel**
BC BAMBERGER REITER

West	North	East	South
Häusler	Berg	Gromöller	Austberg
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dble	1♥	1NT	2♦
All Pass			

No adventures or experiments at the other table but a quiet partscore for another +90 and 12 IMPs back to Heimdal.

When both teams sadly missed the cold slam on the last board of the day, the final result of the match became:

BAMBERGER REITER vs HEIMDAL

47-26 or 16.18 – 3.82 V.P.





ROUND ROBIN, ROUND 7

by Jos Jacobs



Matches between Scandinavian teams Closed Room traditionally are well-fought, mainly because the various Nordic rivalries are playing an important part.

This time, it might just be the exception to the rule as Norway's Heimdal had enjoyed a quite reasonable first day whereas the Swedes (Skalman) had found themselves back very much down the table – it thus would not come as a surprise if the Norwegians would win this encounter in some comfort.

The first signs of the direction this match would take were shown on board 3:

Board: 3. Dlr: South/EW

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

West	North	East	South
Groethem	Gullberg	Tondel	Bergdahl
1♦	1♥	Dble	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	3♣
3♦	4♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

North's 1♥ showed spades. Whether North bids hearts or spades, getting the hearts well into the picture proved a difficult task for East anyway. Another problem was the nature of West's double of 4♣. If this would certainly show heart tolerance, East might have retreated to 4♥ after all. Declarer lost the obvious five tricks and thus went two down, Heimdal +300. At the other table, West's Raptor-style overcall pre-

maturely silenced everyone.

West	North	East	South
Petersson	Livgard	Ahlesved	Aa
2♠	All Pass		1♣

2♠ showed four spades and a longer minor. Clubs were led and continued, declarer throwing a diamond on the second round to avoid losing control. He could then win the diamond return, run the ♥K successfully, cash the ♦K felling the queen, play off two top trumps and run good diamonds through North. Just made, Skalman +110 but 5 IMPs to Heimdal.

In the LT Ilanka v. GS Allegra match, as well as in the 't Onstein v. Mossop match, we saw the same more substantial swing:

West	North	East	South
Bianchedi	Tuszynski	Madala	Sakowicz
2♦	3♣	Pass	2♣
Dble	Pass	4♥	All Pass

After the Polish 2♣ opening bid (Precision style), Bianchedi had a choice of actions available. Once he elected to double at his second turn, the pair landed safely in 4♥. One overtrick, GS Allegra +650.

West	North	East	South
Krupowicz	Bocchi	Miechowicz	Brenner
1♦	Pass	1♥	2♣
2♠	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♦	4♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4♦	All Pass

Basically the same problem as in the Scandinavian match above: what does the double of 4♣ imply? The difference, however: if you don't sit it, shouldn't you go to 4♥ rather than 4♦? One overtrick at this table as well but only +150 to LT Ilanka and thus 11 IMPs to GS Allegra.





In the 't Onstein v. Mossop match, this was the only hand on which the Brits registered a substantial swing:

West	North	East	South
<i>P Hackett</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Nab</i>
1♦	1♥	Dble	1♣
3♣	Dble	3♥	2♣
4♥	All Pass		Pass

North's 1♥ showed spades but after Paul Hackett's flexible 3♣ bid, 4♥ was reached easily.

Well done, Mossop +620.

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Mossop</i>
1♦	1♠	Pass	1♣
3♦	All Pass		2♣

Interesting to see that if North bids his spades, he removes or definitely diminishes the chance of East getting into the hearts. Three overtricks, 't Onstein +170 but 10 IMPs to Mossop.

Needless to say, one might think after 't Onstein's impressive performance on Thursday, the Dutch went on to win this match 40-11 or 17.68 – 2.32 V.P. despite this early setback...

Back again to the Scandinavian encounter.

Board: 4. Dlr: West/All

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Groethem</i>	<i>Gullberg</i>	<i>Tondel</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

When Bergdahl did not have the courage to show his second suit over 3♠, the Norwegians peacefully

went two down in their contract. Skalman +200.

West	North	East	South
<i>Petersson</i>	<i>Livgard</i>	<i>Ahlesved</i>	<i>Aa</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
Dble	Pass	2♥	3♦
3♥	5♦	5♠	6♦
Dble	All Pass		

Nebulous 1♦ (Strong Club style). Once West showed spades with his double, EW found a number of heart bids to agree spades and show interest in game. In between, South had the chance to show his second suit. After partner's jump to 5♦, South did not even want to let the opponents play at the five-level – and quite rightly so, as he eventually emerged with an overtrick and +1740 on the lead of the ♣A.

In the Mossop v. 't Onstein match, Bart Nab did not show any inhibitions whatsoever:

West	North	East	South
<i>P Hackett</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Nab</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
1♠	Pass	4♠	5♦ (!)
All Pass			

Just one overtrick:: 't Onstein +620

In the other room, Precision took away some bidding space:

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Mossop</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣	2♥
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

One down but diamonds lost forever...Mossop +100 but a loss of 11 IMPs for them.

In the LT Ilanka v. GS Allegra match, South opted for a practical approach that backfired:

West	North	East	South
<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Sakowicz</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	4♥
All Pass			

South's bold jump silenced everyone but the contract proved too difficult when declarer, after ruffing the ♣A lead, refrained from taking the diamond finesse but played a diamond to the ace – his only chance to quickly get to dummy in some safety. When the hearts did not behave, he lost control and thus could not establish his spade trick in time. One down, GS Allegra +100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Krupowicz</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Miechowicz</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	2♠
Dble	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

At the other table, Brenner showed his two-suiter and thus, Bocchi was quickly in 5♦. One doubled overtrick for +950 and 14 more IMPs to GS Allegra.

Strange things happened on board 7:

Board: 7. Dlr: South/All

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Sakowicz</i>
1♥	Dble	Pass	Pass
Redbl	1♠	All Pass	1♣

West's overcall ran into a strong variation of the Polish Club. The contract would have gone down by sheer lack of winners but West's evasive action would not have improved the EW position. When North spoke again, all EW problems were over. Though there are 12 tricks available (double dummy, of course), North contented himself with nine and scored +140 for LT Ilanka.

West	North	East	South
<i>Krupowicz</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Miechowicz</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	2NT
All Pass			3NT

Once South opened 1♥, EW were out of trouble. 2♣ was either natural or any strong hand and 2♦ showed 8+. 2NT then showed 16-19 and 3NT over the relay confirmed 2-5-3-3.

West found the fine deceptive lead of the ♣Q which was allowed to hold. The ♣J came next and when this, too, held the trick, West shifted to a low diamond. East played the ♦10, of course, and declarer won the jack.

At this point, declarer was completely in the dark about the layout of the hand – don't forget there had not been any oppositional bidding. He therefore went for a late endplay: he cashed four rounds of spades, overtaking his queen with dummy's king in the process, and then played ♦A and another expecting (or hoping) to put West on lead for a forced heart return.

When it was East who won the ♦K for a heart return, the contract was one down. LT Ilanka +100, a fully deserved 6 IMPs only for a wonderful defence.

In the Scandinavian match, they had different ideas:

West	North	East	South
<i>Groethem</i>	<i>Gullberg</i>	<i>Tondel</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♠	All Pass	5♠

Bergdahl treated his hand as a strong 2NT so the Swedes pressed on to the slam level. They would need a double-dummy line of play, however, to bring it home.

West led a diamond to the ten and jack. Declarer's next move was to run the ♥Q successfully, dummy throwing a club. When declarer proceeded to ruff a low heart in dummy, followed by a trump to his ace and the ♠Q, he could no longer make the contract. One down, Heimdal +100.

Had he cashed the ♥A and ruffed a heart, followed by a diamond to his nine, the ♦A and a club up, he would have made his contract. After reaching dummy, he can ruff the 13th diamond high and in the end, his club loser will be taken by both West's ♣J and East's fifth trump.

In the replay, the Norwegian NS reached 3NT and easily made it on a less inspired defence than we saw above for a gain of 12 IMPs.

The final scores:

SKALMAN vs HEIMDAL
0-37 or 1.16 – 18.84 V.P.
LT ILANKA vs GS ALLEGRA
10-29 or 4.25 – 15.75 V.P.



ROUND ROBIN, ROUND 8

by Jos Jacobs

BAMBERGER R. vs **ONSTEIN**
HEIMDAL vs **LT ILANKA**

West Häusler	North Drijver	East Fritsche	South Nab
2♥	Pass	3♥	1♣
Pass	3♠	All Pass	Dble

In round 8, the match between 't Onstein and their eternal rivals (and possibly their "Angstgegner" as well) from Germany was scheduled. The two teams were at the top of the table when the match started, though a 24-V.P. gap separated them. If the Germans would manage to inflict a first defeat on the Dutch, they would make a giant step forward towards finishing in the top four.

Everything went according to the German plans on the first board:

Board: 11. Dlr: South/None

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

West De Wijs	North Jagniewski	East Muller	South Gawel
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1♣ was Polish, of course and the proper contract was duly reached. East led the ♥K which declarer immediately won with his as he still held a second stopper in the suit. His next moves were a diamond to the king which held the trick and two rounds of clubs ending in his hand. At this point, Jagniewski had to choose between another diamond and guessing right or the simple chance of a spade to the king, hoping to find East with the ace. When he opted for the latter, he was home. Bamberger Reiter a fine +400.

In the replay, Fritsche tried to make life difficult for his opponents by raising to 3♥.

Not knowing about partner's singleton ♥10, and no doubt taking into account the chance of finding four spades opposite, Drijver bid 3♠ which became the final contract. On the actual layout, declarer could not both ruff hearts and keep control so he had to concede one down. Another +50 and 10 IMPs to the Reiter. They had made the start they wanted and they would stay in the lead until board 17, as we shall see.

In our other match, both tables duly reached in 3NT but with a different outcome.

West Urbanski	North Berg	East Tuszynski	South Austberg
2♥	Dble	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

For the Poles, East led the ♥K. Declarer won the ace and immediately led a diamond to dummy's king and West's ace. When West went on to cash two top hearts, the ♥9 had become declarer's 9th trick before declarer would have had to guess which winning finesse (diamonds or spades) he had to take. Had West ducked the ♦A, it might have been a different story. Heimdal +400.

West Aa	North Krupowicz	East Livgard	South Zawada
1♥	Pass	1♠	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

As West had overcalled just 1♥, East did not bother to lead partner's suit but tried a low diamond instead. Declarer called for dummy's king which held the trick and from here, he was left to his own devices. Two top clubs ending in hand and another diamond for the moment of truth. When he called for dummy's queen, West won the ace and the contract had gone down. West returned the ♥Q rather than his last diamond

but this did not even matter as East was still looking at his ♠A as well. Nicely done, another +50 and 10 IMPs to Heimdal.

In the same match, a different lead led a 4♠ contract through at one table:

Board: 15. Dlr: South/NS

♠ A J 10 8 7 6 4 ♥ J 9 6 2 ♦ 4 ♣ 5	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K Q 3 ♥ A 10 8 ♦ K J 3 ♣ 10 9 6 2	♠ – ♥ K 4 ♦ A Q 10 9 7 2 ♣ K Q J 8 3
---	---	--	---

bleton or he was expecting the ♣10 as the lead from 109xx. With the club loser gone, declarer went on to ruff out the ♣A. Next came two rounds of trumps, East winning his queen and returning a low heart. Declarer was not to be fooled about this so he called for the king in dummy. When this held, declarer could cash a top club, ruff himself back to his hand in clubs and take a diamond finesse to get rid of another heart loser on the diamond ace. This way, his losses were restricted to just two trumps as West had used his third trump at the wrong moment during the play. Heimdal a remarkable +650..

West	North	East	South
Aa	Krupowicz	Livgard	Zawada
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3NT

West	North	East	South
Urbanski	Berg	Tuszynski	Austberg
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			4♠

At the other table, East found the fine lead of the ♦J, removing a crucial entry to dummy but leaving declarer with at least four losers anyway. When West returned a low diamond after winning the ♣A at trick two, the contract even went down two. Heimdal +200 and 13 IMPs to them.

When East made the unlucky lead of the ♣2, declarer suddenly had a chance when dummy's king held the trick. Apparently, West took his partner for a dou-

In the 't Onstein – Bamberger Reiter match, the Dutch scored their first IMPs of the match on this board when they stayed in 3♠ just making whereas the Germans went down in 4♠.



Allan Livgard, Jan Tore Berg and Per Erik Austberg

With the score at 14-6 to the Reiter, this was board 17:

Board: 17. Dlr: North/None

		♠ A 10 8 4									
		♥ A 10 9									
		♦ 6									
		♣ Q J 10 8 5									
♠ K Q 6 5 2	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 9 7
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ Q J		♥ 8 7 6 3									
♦ A 8 5 4		♦ K 7 2									
♣ 7 2		♣ 9 6 3									
		♠ 3									
		♥ K 5 4 2									
		♦ Q J 10 9 3									
		♣ A K 4									

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Gawel</i>
	1♣	Pass	2♣
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♣ was GF in diamonds.

Polish Club quickly saw NS end up in 3NT. Had West held the ♠9 as well, declarer would have had an easy run but when East produced ♠j97, declarer had no chance. One down, 't Onstein +50.

West	North	East	South
<i>Häusler</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Fritsche</i>	<i>Nab</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♣	2♠	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	5♣
All Pass			



Bart Nab
BC'T ONSTEIN

1♦ showed (in this case) 7-11 with one four-card major.

Five Clubs proved an excellent contract as spades can be ruffed if necessary but, more important, diamonds can be established easily for two losers and three extra tricks to get to the required 11.

't Onstein a fine +400 and 10 IMPs to take the lead: 16-14.

Only one other pair reached 5♣: Bilde-Duboin.

On the last board of the match, the Reiter may have considered themselves a trifle unlucky:

Board: 20. Dlr: West/All

		♠ K 6 5 3 2									
		♥ Q 8 3									
		♦ 10 5 3									
		♣ 5 4									
♠ A Q 4	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 9 8
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 10 9		♥ J 7 4									
♦ Q 8 6 2		♦ A K J 9									
♣ A K Q 3		♣ J 10 8 6									
		♠ J 10 7									
		♥ A K 6 5 2									
		♦ 7 4									
		♣ 9 7 2									

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Gawel</i>
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

This is the practical approach followed at nearly all tables and resulting in an almost general +630 for EW when North invariably led a spade.

There were two exceptions: Ahlesved-Petersson for Skalman and the auction below:

West	North	East	South
<i>Häusler</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Fritsche</i>	<i>Nab</i>
1♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

2♠ was an 8-11 diamond raise and 3♥ showed weakness. Five diamonds was a legitimately good contract as it would depend on a spade finesse rather than the hearts 4-4.

When the spade finesse proved wrong, the Dutch had gained another 12 IMPs to win the match 28-14 or 14.54 – 5.46 V.P.



ROUND ROBIN, ROUND 9

by Jos Jacobs

'T ONSTEIN vs **HEIMDAL**
RADKOV vs **BAMBERGER R.**

At the start of this round, there was a 16 V.P. gap between the 4th- and 5th- ranked teams. This would mean that for any of the teams within the top four ('t Onstein, GS Allegra, Heimdal and Bamberger Reiter) it should be sufficient to just avoid any big defeats whereas any wins would be welcomed like before.

On the first board of the 't Onstein-Heimdal match, it very much looked like the old story of this event once again.

obvious pass.

On a diamond lead, the defenders have four diamond tricks and two aces but South led a club which ran to declarer's nine. Van Prooijen now was a tempo ahead, so he simply returned a club. South won the ace and returned the ♠10 but it was already too late. 't Onstein +150 and 10 IMPs when declarer's ♦K also scored later in the play.

Board 24 was a matter of keeping quiet. Not all NS pairs succeeded.

Board: 21. Dlr: North/NS

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

West	North	East	South
Groetheim	Drijver	Tondel	Nab
	1♦	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

The Norwegian EW were given a rather free run to game but then, Drijver wanted to have last word. Understandable and correct. Down two, 't Onstein +300.

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Berg	Van Prooijen	Austberg
	1♦	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	All Pass

East suggested a good hand with his 2♦ but when West could not produce more than 2♠, East gave it one more try with 2NT on which West had a pretty

Board: 24. Dlr: West/None

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

West	North	East	South
Groetheim	Drijver	Tondel	Nab
Pass	1♣	3♥	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	5NT
All Pass			

When South bid a forcing 4♦, East's 3♥ bid had done its job.

South duly bid 5NT on partner's request to do so (5♥) but even this contract proved just one too high: Heimdal +50.

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Berg	Van Prooijen	Austberg
Pass	1♣	3♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

South cautiously passed over 3♥ - which proved the right thing to do. Ten tricks, Heimdal +430 and 10 IMPs to them.

In the other match, the Bulgarians had the same problem:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Tenev</i>	<i>Fritsche</i>	<i>Tiholov</i>
Pass	1♣	3♥	4♦
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Declarer even went two down when he cashed all his trumps, hoping that some sort of endplay would develop. Not that it mattered very much...Bamberger Reiter +100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Nedkov</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Radev</i>	<i>Gawel</i>
Pass	1♣	3♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	All Pass	

Over partner's strong rebid, Gawel gave it one more try but when partner signed off, he wisely passed. Well done, bid up to the limit for another +430 and 11 IMPs to the Reiter.

Board: 27. Dlr: South/None

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



West	North	East	South
<i>Groethem</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Tondel</i>	<i>Nab</i>
Pass	2♠	Dble	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
4♥	5♦	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Over South's weak NT (10-12), North bid 2♠ which could show, among other things, a strong minor two-suiter. When East doubled this, West got the chance to introduce a fitbid in hearts, which made the sacrifice obvious. When declarer handled the trumps correctly (not so difficult in view of the auction), the Dutch had to be content with one down only, +100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Berg</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Austberg</i>
Pass	2♦	2♠	1NT
3♠	4NT	Pass	Pass
All Pass			5♦

In the replay, 1NT was 8-12 and 2♦ was GF. East showed his spades but when West did not make a fitbid in hearts, the chance of finding the profitable sacrifice was lost. The contract of 5♦ was made with an overtrick for another +420 and 8 IMPs to Heimdal who had taken the lead with just three boards to play. Would they succeed in becoming the first team to beat the Dutch?

Yes, they would, as nothing happened in this match on the remaining boards. The final score became 19-13 or 12.18 – 7.82 V.P. to Heimdal.

Both teams, however, had missed their chance to do extremely well on board 29, a push at -100 in their match.



Ricco van Prooijen
BC'T ONSTEIN

Board: 29. Dlr: North/All

♠ K 9 8 5 3	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W S E </div>	♠ 10 6
♥ A 9		♥ 10 6 5 4 3
♦ 8 5 2		♦ 7 3
♣ A 10 2		♣ 6 5 4 3
♠ Q 7 2		
♥ K J 8 7		
♦ A Q 9		
♣ 9 8 7		
♠ A J 4		
♥ Q 2		
♦ K J 10 6 4		
♣ K Q J		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gromoeller</i>	<i>Tenev</i>	<i>Fritsche</i>	<i>Tiholov</i>
1♠	2NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	3♠
Pass		Pass	4♠
All Pass			

fore the diamonds are established. Of course, declarer might guess the spade position after the ruff, as probably happened at many tables – 4♠ was made more often than not, even though North was the declarer.

When Fritsche led a heart, Tenev was down one as he had no reason whatsoever to go for the scooping play in trumps. Bamberger Reiter +100.

Curiously enough, 4♠ by South is cold as East will never get the lead on any normal play.

The problem this is: how to get there? Easily, as the other Reiter pair showed us.

West	North	East	South
<i>Nedkov</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Radev</i>	<i>Gawel</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

North passed (!) as dealer and responded a transfer 1♥ over partner's Polish Club. The rest was plain sailing. Just made and 12 more IMPs to the Reiter who thus won the match 28-7 or 16.18-3.82 V.P. to consolidate their position.

Of course, 4♠ by North was the popular contract. If East finds any red suit lead, the contract can go down on a diamond ruff or the loss of a heart trick be-





ROUND ROBIN, ROUND 5

by Jos Jacobs

MONACO

vs

ONSTEIN

In Round 5, the big match certainly was the one between the leaders 't Onstein and Monaco. To a certain extent, this match could be considered a replay of the recent World Bridge Games final in Wrocław. The tournament situation, however, was not quite the same. In Poland, it was a final but here, it was Monaco who were badly needing some V.P. as they had scored just average over the first four rounds and time was already slightly beginning to run out for them if they wanted to make it into the top four. They certainly would have to avoid a big defeat to keep their chances for tomorrow intact.

First blood in this match, however, went to the Dutch:

Board: 12. Dlr: West/NS

		♠ K 6 4									
		♥ K Q J 10 8 4									
		♦ 9 7									
		♣ 7 5									
♠ A Q 9 7 3	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 10 8 2
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A 5 3	♥ 7 6										
♦ Q J 3	♦ A 10 6 4										
♣ K 8	♣ A Q J 6										
		♠ J 5									
		♥ 9 2									
		♦ K 8 5 2									
		♣ 10 9 4 3 2									

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Multon	Muller	Zimmermann
1♣	2♥	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Strong Club in action. 3♠ showed a non-minimum raise but 3NT showed a minimum. Muller then signed off in 4♠, the normal contract.

North led a heart which was allowed to hold. He shifted to a diamond which went to South's king and a heart came back, declarer winning the ace. De Wijs' next move was to cash the ♠A. When he continued a club to dummy and a spade up to his ♠Q9, his problems were over when the jack appeared. Very well played for a fully deserved +420.

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Van Prooijen	Helness	Verhees
1NT	2♦	Dble	Redbl
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Over 1NT, North bid a Multi 2♦. South's redouble asked North to bid his major and here too, the normal 4♠ was reached.

When Helgemo immediately won the ♥K lead and returned the suit, he was quickly one down. North took the trick and simply continued the suit, South overruffing dummy's ♠10 with the jack. Declarer later had to lose the ♠K and ♦K as well. Another +50 to 't Onstein and 10 IMPs.

On the next board, Monaco immediately hit back:

Board: 13. Dlr: North/All

		♠ A 4 3									
		♥ 4 2									
		♦ K 8 5 4									
		♣ K 7 6 3									
♠ K	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 6 5
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A K 10 9 7	♥ Q 8 6 5 3										
♦ A Q	♦ 6 2										
♣ Q J 10 9 5	♣ A 8 4										
		♠ J 10 9 8 7 2									
		♥ J									
		♦ J 10 9 7 3									
		♣ 2									

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Multon	Muller	Zimmermann
	Pass	Pass	3♠
Dble	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Hearts were never mentioned so the Dutch had to be content with one down and +200 only.

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Van Prooijen	Helness	Verhees
	Pass	Pass	3♠
Dble	4♠	5♥	All Pass

Helness did not wait for his partner's second double

(or whatever) but went straight to 5♥ over 4♠. Well judged and made with an overtrick for +680 and 10 IMPs back to Monaco.

Two quiet boards and then a Dutch hattrick of double-figure swings:

Board: 16. Dlr: West/EW

♠ 2 ♥ 6 ♦ J 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ A 9 8 7	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ AK8754 ♥ Q82 ♦ K10 ♣ Q2	♠ J10 ♥ J1043 ♦ Q8 ♣ KJ1065
--	--	------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

♠ Q963 ♥ AK975 ♦ A9 ♣ 43			
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West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

This time too, 3NT was “non-serious” but when South forgot to retreat to 5♠ over 5♥, the Monegasques suddenly were in the wrong game contract, having to lose two clubs and a trump as they were not playing on a double-dummy basis. ‘t Onstein +50.

As the Dutch did not go beyond 4♠, they could add another 11 IMPs to their tally as 4♠ made with two overtricks when the clubs were not cashed immediately.

Then:

Board: 17. Dlr: North/None

♠ 10 9 7 6 3 ♥ J 10 8 4 ♦ AK5 ♣ Q	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K52 ♥ AK65 ♦ 872 ♣ 632	♠ QJ8 ♥ 72 ♦ J103 ♣ KJ874
--	--	-----------------------------------	------------------------------------

♠ A4 ♥ Q93 ♦ Q964 ♣ A1095			
------------------------------------	--	--	--

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
1NT	Pass	Pass	
2♣	Pass	2♠	Dble
All Pass			

Over the 10-12 NT, 2♥ showed majors so EW reached their spade fit without any trouble.

The defence started off with two rounds of trumps and a diamond back but when South did not play a heart after winning his ♣A, two overtricks were the bonus. ‘t Onstein +670.

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
1♠	Dble	2♠	Dble
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

The Monegasques were in 2♠ doubled as well but North wisely ran. 3♥ was not a success but two down undoubled at 50 per undertrick gave the Dutch another 11 IMPs.





RESULTS

ROUND 7

1	LT ILANKA	ALLEGRA	10	29	4.25	15.75
2	ONSTEIN	MOSSOP	40	11	17.68	2.32
3	RADKOV	RIEHM	36	16	15.97	4.03
4	SKALMAN	HEIMDAL	0	37	1.16	18.84
5	JT3	BAMBERGER	9	43	1.56	18.44
6	MONACO	VILLA FABBRICHE	16	27	6.28	13.72

ROUND 8

1	JT3	ALLEGRA	7	17	6.57	13.43
2	MONACO	SKALMAN	35	13	16.39	3.61
3	VILLA FABBRICHE	RADKOV	5	15	6.57	13.43
4	BAMBERGER	ONSTEIN	14	28	5.46	14.54
5	HEIMDAL	LT ILANKA	25	11	14.54	5.46
6	RIEHM	MOSSOP	0	51	0.00	20.00

ROUND 9

1	ALLEGRA	MOSSOP	12	10	10.77	9.23
2	LT ILANKA	RIEHM	7	21	5.46	14.54
3	ONSTEIN	HEIMDAL	13	19	7.82	12.18
4	RADKOV	BAMBERGER	7	28	3.82	16.18
5	SKALMAN	VILLA FABBRICHE	4	26	3.61	16.39
6	JT3	MONACO	9	36	2.66	17.34

ROUND 10

1	HEIMDAL	ALLEGRA	21	19	10.77	9.23
2	RIEHM	BAMBERGER	7	40	1.70	18.30
3	MOSSOP	VILLA FABBRICHE	2	30	2.49	17.51
4	LT ILANKA	MONACO	14	24	6.57	13.43
5	ONSTEIN	JT3	21	39	4.48	15.52
6	RADKOV	SKALMAN	13	31	4.48	15.52

ROUND 11

1	ALLEGRA	MONACO	4	34	2.16	17.84
2	VILLA FABBRICHE	JT3	11	8	11.14	8.86
3	BAMBERGER	SKALMAN	20	39	4.25	15.75
4	HEIMDAL	RADKOV	8	22	5.46	14.54
5	RIEHM	ONSTEIN	17	12	11.85	8.15
6	MOSSOP	LT ILANKA	22	8	14.54	5.46

RANKING AFTER
ROUND 11

1	ONSTEIN	147.49
2	BAMBERGER	133.04
3	HEIMDAL	127.27
4	MONACO	126.53
5	ALLEGRA	122.34
6	MOSSOP	103.49
7	RADKOV	101.41
8	RIEHM	95.90
9	VILLA FABBRICHE	92.12
10	LT ILANKA	91.17
11	SKALMAN	91.07
12	JT3	88.17