



Daily Bulletin



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V EUROPEAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONS CVP

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Bulletin 4

Sunday 15th October 2006

De Lombard and Bamberg both oust Italians



At the start of the day, many of us would have expected at least one of the Italian team to reach the final. At half time, Allegra were well placed and Parioli were not very much behind. With 12 boards to play, Bamberg had increased their lead to 19 and De Lombard had just completed a terrific comeback to

trail by two. As we all know, the prizes are distributed at the post: when the final counting was made it turned out that both De Lombard and Bamberg had won comfortably enough. Well done so far, both teams and we all hope you will bring us much more to enjoy today! It is certainly good for bridge as an international sport that even long-time European champions sometimes prove they are not 100% infallible. This applies in particular for the Netherlands and Germany, the two countries whose bridge communities are likely to profit most from the fine performances of their club champions.

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Today's VuGraph & BBO & SWAN Matches

- 10.00 GSD Allegra Italy vs TC Parioli Italy (VG)
The Lombard - Neth vs Bamberg BC - Ger (BBO)
Mragowia Si - Pol vs EYKT - Iceland (SWAN)
- 13.00 To be decided
- 15.00 To be decided
- 17.00 To be decided

Programme & Schedule of play

Sunday 15th October

- 10.00 Final & Play-Off 1st Session
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.00 Final & Play-Off 2nd Session
- 15.00 Final & Play-Off 3rd Session
- 17.00 Final 4th Session
- 20.30 Prize Giving & Victory Banquet

Results

Semifinals A	Ses 1	Ses 2	Ses 3	Ses 4	Tot
The Lombard - Neth	19	28	38	45	130
GSD Allegra - Italy	49	38	2	19	108
Bamberg BC - Ger	29	33	29	24	115
TC Parioli - Italy	17	31	24	38	110
Semifinals B	Ses 1	Ses 2	Ses 3	Ses 4	Tot
EYKT - Iceland	88	21	59	54	222
Enc - England	6	53	29	16	104
Mragowia Si - Pol	27	1	25	34	87
Nasby BS - Sweden	30	13	9	29	81
Semifinals C	Ses 1	Ses 2	Ses 3	Ses 4	Tot
Inc - Ireland	24	35	2	27	88
Vestfold - Norway	39	24	33	23	119
Fnc - France	11	17	22	13	63
Tordas Gamax - Hun	22	8	20	52	102

Today Matches

Final
The Lombard - Neth
Bamberg BC - Ger
Final 3°/4°
GSD Allegra - Italy
TC Parioli - Italy
Final 5°
EYKT - Iceland
Mragowia Si - Pol
Final 9°
Vestfold - Norway
Tordas Gamax - Hun





“CITTA’ DI MILANO”
 **“I NAVIGLI”**

**1st INTERNATIONAL
 BRIDGE TEAMS TOURNAMENT**

JOLLY HOTEL
 MILANOFIORI

CONGRESS CENTER

Semifinals	The semifinals, first segment	
Segment I		by Jos Jacobs

As the rules of this tournament were changed last year, the two Italian teams were no longer obliged to meet in the semifinals. As they had both won their group, Parioli would face Bamberg and Allegra had to cope with De Lombard. In all semifinal reports to be published today I will keep an eye on both the "Allegra" and the "Parioli" matches.

On board 2 in the Allegra match it looked to me as if the writing was on the wall already at this early stage.

Board: 2. Dealer East/NS

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

At many tables, in the other matches too, South led his singleton heart against the normal 4♠ by East. Against Parioli a diamond was led away from the king which resulted in the second overtrick.

Bas Drijver for De Lombard was treated to an innocent enough trump lead. He drew just two rounds of trumps and then started to unblock the ♥KQ. Injustice was done when Vivaldi could ruff this and continue a low club. Had declarer put up the king, a losing club would have gone on the ♥A and all would have been well, but once he ducked in dummy, there was no way left to make the hand as the ♦K was badly placed too.

As they did not have such problems at the other table, Allegra scored an early 11-imp swing here.

More for them was to come on the next board which clearly showed the difference in approach between the two teams:

Board: 3. Dealer South/EW

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>
1♥	1♠	2NT	3♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All pass		

On correct defence by the Italians, De Wijs could not avoid down four: two hearts, two diamonds, two clubs and a ruff. Allegra +800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Vivaldi</i>
1♥	1♠	3♥	Dbl
Pass	3♠	All pass	

Ferraro lost the same tricks but De Lombard just scored +150 for their efforts, conceding another 12 Imps to trail 0-25 at this point... In the Parioli match we also saw a swing but it might well have gone the other way...

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromoeller Lauria</i>		<i>Kirmse</i>
1♥	1♠	2NT	3♠
4♥	All Pass		

Gromoeller led the ♠Q and a spade to South's king. At trick three, he led the ♦J which Lauria, convinced that South would hold the ♠A as well, took as a true card. He went up with the ace, cashed the top trumps and then tried to bring


down the $\diamond K$ with two ruffs. He might have crossed to his $\clubsuit A$ and led a diamond from hand but we will never know if Kirmse would have ducked this one smoothly as well... Anyway, Bamberg +100 when the $\diamond K$ did not appear in time.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
1 \heartsuit	1 \spadesuit	3 \heartsuit	Pass
Pass	3 \clubsuit	All pass	Dbl

Fantoni went only two down but Parioli still had lost 100 at both tables or 5 Imps in all. A big swing to Parioli on the next board:

Board: 4. Dealer West/All

\spadesuit 8	\spadesuit A K J 9 6 5 4 3	\spadesuit Q 10 7 2
\heartsuit A 6 5	\heartsuit 7	\heartsuit K J 9 8 3 2
\diamond Q J 6 4	\diamond A	\diamond 2
\clubsuit 9 8 7 6 5	\clubsuit K 4 2	\clubsuit J 3
		
	\spadesuit --	
	\heartsuit Q 10 4	
	\diamond K 10 9 8 7 5 3	
	\clubsuit A Q 10	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromoeller</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>
Pass	2 \clubsuit	2 \heartsuit	3 \diamond
3 \heartsuit	4 \spadesuit	Pass	5 \spadesuit
Pass	6 \spadesuit	All pass	

A solid enough looking eight-card suit was far from enough here...down two, Parioli+200. Please note that Lauria, playing here in his native town, was polite enough not to double...

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	1 \spadesuit	2 \heartsuit	3 \diamond
3 \heartsuit	Dbl	Pass	4 \diamond
Pass	4 \spadesuit	All pass	

The Italians avoided this booby trap and scored a quiet +620 for 13 Imps back to them.

There was no swing either on this wild deal in the Allegra match.

Bamberg recouped most of the deficit on the next board:

Board: 5. Dealer North/NS

\spadesuit A 9 8	\spadesuit 4 2
\heartsuit Q 8	\heartsuit 10 5 3 2
\diamond A 3	\diamond K 10 6 5 4
\clubsuit Q J 10 9 7 5	\clubsuit 3 2
\spadesuit K 6 5	
\heartsuit A K 9 7 6	\spadesuit Q J 10 7 3
\diamond 9	\heartsuit J 4
\clubsuit A 8 6 4	\diamond Q J 8 7 2
	\clubsuit K

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromoeller</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>
2 \heartsuit	1 \clubsuit	Pass	1 \spadesuit
All pass	Dble	3 \heartsuit	4 \spadesuit

The double was support. The play was interesting. West led his singleton diamond but Kirmse went up with the ace and led a club to the king and ace. West could cash his two top hearts but then had to give the lead to declarer again. Kirmse ruffed a club in hand and took the spade finesses. When the king appeared just in time he was home as all the diamonds went on the clubs. Bamberg +620.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
3 \heartsuit	2 \clubsuit	Pass	2 \spadesuit
All pass	4 \spadesuit	5 \heartsuit	Dbl

Bamberg found a fine save here for down two and a well-deserved swing of 8 Imps.

In the Allegra match, De Lombard gained 7 Imps when they made 3 \spadesuit in one room and were allowed to play and make 2 \heartsuit (!) in the other. On board 8, De Lombard reduced their deficit again by bidding and making a slightly odds-against slam:

Board: 8. Dealer West/None

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>
1♥	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	All pass		

INT showed spades.

Declarer made 11 tricks by finessing the ♠Q through North, the proper play to pick up Qxxx as well.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Vivaldi</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♠	All pass

Drijver made his slam by finessing the ♠Q through South. He was right this time: the swing went his team's way.

De Lombard a fine +980 and 11 Imps back.

On boards 10 and 11, both Parioli missed an easy-looking game their way:

Board: 10. Dealer East/All

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromoeller Lauria</i>		<i>Kirmse</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥
All pass			


Just made, Bamberg +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
All pass			

Parioli +170 but 10 Imps to Bamberg.

Board: 11. Dealer South/None

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromoeller Lauria</i>		<i>Kirmse</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	All pass

Parioli +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All pass

Bamberg +430 and 6 Imps to them this time, as the game was not vulnerable.

After the first quarter, Allegra led De Lombard 49-19 and Bamberg led Parioli 29-16.

Round Robin
Round 3 **Osservatorio** by Franco Broccoli

Eravamo rimasti con due mani di fila sfavorevoli. Dopo poco è arrivato un piccolo recupero, 6 imp.

Board 11

Dich. Sud – Tutti in prima

♠ D 9 8	♠ 10 7 5 3	♠ A F 4
♥ D 8	♥ 6 5 4	♥ A R F 9 3
♦ A 10 5 3 2	♦ R 9 6	♦ 8 7
♣ F 5 4	♣ A 6 2	♣ R 9 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ R 6 2	♠ R 6 2
♥ 10 7 2	♥ 10 7 2
♦ D F 4	♦ D F 4
♣ D 10 8 3	♣ D 10 8 3

Mettetela come vi pare, ci sono belle belle 9 prese in E/O a SA. Tutto sta a chiamarli. E allora vediamo le licite:

Sala aperta

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Gotard</i>
passo	passo	1♥	passo
1♠	passo	2♣	passo
2♦	passo	3SA	fine

Attacco fiori. Asso di fiori e fiori. Re di fiori, cuori Dama e Dama di picche a girare. +400.

Sala chiusa

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>D'Avossa</i>
passo	passo	ISA	fine

Attacco fiori, stessa prosecuzione, +150.

Si è perciò aperto una spiraglio di sole in questo incontro difficile, ma la perturbazione è tornata prepotentemente dopo poche smazzate:

Board 15

Dich. Sud – N/S in zona

♠ R D F 7 6	♠ ---	♠ 10 9 8 5 3
♥ R F 9	♥ D 10 8 4 3	♥ 7 6 2
♦ D	♦ R F 9 6 3	♦ A 8 7
♣ A D 9 8	♣ 7 6 4	♣ F 10

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 4 2	♠ A 4 2
♥ A 5	♥ A 5
♦ 10 5 4 2	♦ 10 5 4 2
♣ R 5 3 2	♣ R 5 3 2

Sala aperta

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Gotard</i>
1♠	passo	3♠	passo
4♠	fine		passo

Piekarek ha attaccato 4 di cuori per l'Asso del compagno che è tornato nel colore. Chi ha il Re di fiori? Ma che domanda è? No, perché se il Re di fiori è in Sud si possono pure perdere, a cuor sereno (è il caso di dirlo), 2 cuori e l'Asso d'atout. Se invece la sua maestà floreale sta seduta in Nord, di cuori bisogna cederne solo una. Fatto sta che, sul ritorno cuori di Sud, Duboin ha fatto l'impasse e Nord ha preso ed è tornato nel colore per il taglio del compagno. Sommate queste 3 levée a quella che non si può evitare di cedere, l'Asso d'atout, il dichiarante si è trovato a corto di una presa. Inserendo il Re di cuori sul ritorno di Sud, e giocando quadri per l'Asso e fiori impasse a ripetere, Ovest avrebbe mantenuto il contratto. Sì, ma per perdere lo stesso una carretta di imp. Perché? Perché nell'altra sala...

<p>Torneo Internazionale a Squadre</p> <h1 style="margin: 0;">MONTECARLO</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Sporting d'hiver</p> <p style="margin: 0;">10 - 12 novembre 2006</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Iscrizioni</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Squadre juniors: gratuite • Squadre Signore: Euro 150,00 • Squadre Open: Euro 250,00 <p style="text-align: center;">Prenotando e versando la relativa quota entro il 30 ottobre sarà applicato uno sconto di Euro 50,00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Informazioni, Prenotazioni, Iscrizioni pattonmonaco@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Programma</p> <p>Qualificazioni Venerdì' ore 16.00 (o ore 21.00)</p> <p>Fase intermedia Sabato ore 14.00</p> <p>Finali Sabato sera e Domenica pomeriggio</p> <p>Consolazione Domenica pomeriggio</p> <p>Premiazione Domenica 12 ore 19.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sabato sera: Torneo a coppie (per i non finalisti ed altri interessati)</p>
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Sala chiusa

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>D'Avossa</i>
			passo
1♣	1♦	contro	2SA
3♠	4♦	4♠	5♦
contro	fine		
Il 2SA mostra fit a quadri.			

Attacco Fante di fiori. Si perdono 3 fiori, 1 cuori e 1 quadri per 5♦x-3, pari a 800 per la Germania. A conti fatti 13 imp.

Un altro recupero per Italia, 8 imp.

Board 17

Dich. Nord – Tutti in prima

	♠ A F 8	
	♥ R 4 3	
	♦ R F	
	♣ D 10 6 5 3	
♠ R 9		♠ 10 7 6 4 3
♥ F 9 7 5		♥ 8 6
♦ D 10 6 5		♦ A 8 4 2
♣ R F 9		♣ A 4
	♠ D 5 2	
	♥ A D 10 2	
	♦ 9 7 3	
	♣ 8 7 2	

Si gioca a SA da Nord, Madala è impegnato nel contratto di ISA, Piekarek in quello di 2SA. Est, nelle due sale, attacca picche.

Piekarek passa la Dama del morto (Re, Asso), torna al morto a cuori e muove fiori per il 10, rimanendo in presa. Poi prosegue piccola fiori per l'Asso di Bocchi che torna picche per il 9 di Ovest ed il Fante di Nord. Ancora fiori per il Re di Duboin e quadri. Siamo in zona disperazione e Nord passa il Re. Avete contato cosa ha incassato finora il dichiarante? 2 picche, 1 fiori e 1 cuori. Ecco, basta così. La difesa realizza le restanti prese per 2SA-4.



Dall'altra parte, invece, Madala sta basso sull'attacco picche e cattura il 9 con il Fante. Trasferimento al morto con una cuori per l'Asso e fiori 10. Est entra subito e torna piccola quadri. 1-SA+1

Altro guadagno di 11 imp per l'Italia nella mano che segue:

Board 18

Dich. Sud – N/S in zona

	♠ F 6 2	
	♥ F 8 4	
	♦ D 10	
	♣ A F 7 6 5	
♠ ---		♠ A D 10 8 3
♥ 7 6 3 2		♥ A R
♦ A 7 5 4		♦ R 9 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 4 2		♣ 3
	♠ R 9 7 5 4	
	♥ D 10 9 5	
	♦ F 6	
	♣ R D	

Il contratto è 5♦. Da Ovest in chiusa e da Est in aperta. Elinescu, in chiusa, dopo l'attacco cuori per un pezzo del morto, ha proseguito Asso di picche, picche taglio e fiori. Il Fante di Madala è stato rilevato dalla Dama di D'Avossa che ha intavolato anche il Re nel colore (dite che ha mostrato le sue intenzioni?). Il dichiarante ha tagliato al morto e ha giocato picche taglio, Asso di quadri, cuori per il secondo pezzo del morto e picche taglio. Alt. Surtaglio e fiori promozione 5♦-2.

In aperta Bocchi ha ricevuto, in Est, l'attacco con i due pezzi a fiori di Sud. Tagliata la seconda, ha proseguito picche taglio, cuori al Re, picche taglio (Nord ha fornito il Fante per confondere), Asso di quadri, cuori per l'Asso, Dama di picche tagliata di 7 di quadri, cuori taglio, Re di quadri, 11 prese.

C'è stato un gran finale romantico (tutto a cuori) in quest'incontro, con altri due schiaffoni, uno per parte, nelle ultime due mani. 11 per loro (4♥+1 contro 6♥-1) e 13 per noi (4♥+2 contro 4♥-1). Il tutto ha comportato un punteggio finale di 59 imp a 40 per la Germania.

Praticamente un centinaio che, su 20 mani, denota un incontro abbastanza frizzante.

Round Robin	The hand of the Championship revisited
Round 5	by Jos Jacobs

This is the hand, board 12 from the last round of the Round Robin:

East is declarer in 6♥.

Board: 12. Dealer West/NS

♠ Q 9 8 4 2 ♥ -- ♦ A K J 10 7 5 ♣ J 2	♠ J 10 7 6 ♥ A 8 4 ♦ Q 8 6 ♣ Q 8 4 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W S E </div> ♠ K 5 3 ♥ 10 7 2 ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ 10 9 7 6	♠ A ♥ K Q J 9 6 5 3 ♦ 9 ♣ A K 5 3
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If you look closer into this hand than there was time for on Friday night, you will find that the squeeze can be broken in various ways. First of all, South can lead a club. This enables North to return a club after winning his ♥A.

We already saw that the slam is beaten on a diamond lead as this disrupts communications immediately.

The most interesting defence to the slam, however, is a club return from North after winning the ♥A. Now what should declarer do? If he runs it to dummy's jack he is home of course, but would you dare?

In the Lombard-Parioli match Angelini found the club return (a cunning ♣8, actually) as North after winning his ♥A. So the reason why Drijver went down was that he could no longer play for the squeeze upon winning the ♣A in hand. This would have been the end position:

♠ Q ♥ -- ♦ A K J ♣ J	♠ - ♥ - ♦ Q 8 6 ♣ Q 4 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W S E </div> ♠ K ♥ - ♦ 2 ♣ 10 9 6	♠ - ♥ 3 ♦ 9 ♣ K 5 3
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The last heart is played. South still has a superfluous diamond to throw, but what can you throw from dummy? Throwing the last club means you cannot get back to your hand any more...

Semifinals	The semifinals, second segment
Segment 2	by Jos Jacobs

The second segment of the four short segments scheduled for these semifinal quite often gives you a reliable idea of the direction into which the match is developing. When the segment started, Bamberg were defending a 13-imp lead and De Lombard were trying to reduce a 30-imp deficit. At the end of it, that's to say at the halfway point, the Bamberg lead had stayed intact as they led by 14 at halftime whereas the Allegra advantage had gone up to 40imps.

Following this logic (?) I was expecting the "inevitable" all-Italian final already at this point. We will see later on if this idea had any merit, but at this point I would certainly but also regrettably not bet on my fellow-countrymen from De Lombard to make it to the finals.

Let's see a few boards so that you, dear reader, can judge for yourself.

Two flat boards to start with but then a slam came by:

Board: 3. Dealer South/EW

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
7♠	All pass		

Well, reaching the grand is a bit too much but the contract was by no means without chances. As it happens, you can finesse the hearts both ways.

At the table, Drijver took the easiest of all available lines by running the ♦8 led by Ferraro to his queen. Curtains. De Lombard +2210. East and South have played each other before...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
			Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All pass

So it did not matter too much that Bocchi-Duboin had not reached a slam at all. Allegra +680 and 17 Imps to De Lombard.

On the next board, De Lombard had another great chance:

Board: 4. Dealer West/All

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
Pass	1♦	4♥	Dbl
All pass			

Madala led a top diamond and shifted to a club. At this point, the best way to play this hand against Guido Ferraro is to play him for the blank king of trumps. If a play like this works, you had better call for the riot police and/or the ambulance, some Italian commentators suggested.

So Drijver played safe in an unusual way by winning the club shift in dummy and running the ♥Q, losing to the king. One down, Allegra +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Dbl	Pass	4♠
All pass			

In the other room, the save was taken but it resulted in a phantom, another +200 to Allegra and 7 Imps.

In the Parioli match, we saw an even bigger swing (12 Imps) when the German NS pair went two off in 4♠ doubled, losing 500 at one table and 100 at the other when 4♥ went down one.

At one table, East overcalled 4♥ ending the auction but at the other table, by overcalling just 3♥ East gave his opponents the chance to find their spade fit...(3♠, 4♥, 4♠, double...)

Board: 6. Dealer East/EW

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
Pass		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	2♥	2♠
Pass	3NT	All pass	

1♠ was a Canapé overcall, showing at least three cards in the suit and a longer second suit. When NS quickly reached 3NT (instead of the +2600 Madala was visualising after the hand was over) Drijver led his suit only to find out that the ♥Q was a much needed entry for a diamond finesse. One overtrick, Allegra +430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All pass			

Bocchi too led his secret weapon: the ♣K. When the diamonds did not break, declarer had to go one down: ♣A, heart to East's king, club to the ten and ♠K followed by ♠Q as East gave count.

Well defended, Allegra +50 and 10 more Imps.

This hand also was a swing to Germany. Gromoeller had considered his hand as a 19-20 NT type and opened accordingly. From the auction, his four-card hearts was revealed via a Puppet sequence but the diamonds were not. East led the ♠6 to West's queen, but instead of continuing the ♠K, West led a heart. Apparently, he could not exactly read the lead. With the ♥K gone, declarer had all the time to win the spade return and concede a diamond trick as the spade were blocked now. When the game was duly defeated at the other table Bamberg had scored 10 Imps.

Board: 8. Dealer West/None

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dbl
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All pass			

Once again the Canapé overcall and once again the lead in the "real" suit: spades.

On the run of the clubs, Drijver had to discard two hearts and two diamonds. As he did so smoothly, Ferraro went for the diamond finesse in the end to go down two. De Lombard +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♣
3♠	4♣	Pass	5♣
All pass			

This good bidding performance by NS deserved a swing and it duly came. De Lombard +400 and 11 Imps back. They were down by 22 at this point.

Parioli also gained a swing on this board, as you can see from the auctions at the two tables:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Sementa</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♠
3♠	Dble	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
All pass			

Just made, Parioli +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dble
3♠	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All pass	

Just one down, Parioli +50 and 10 Imps to level the match.

Board: 9. Dealer North/EW

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
	Pass	INT	2S!!
Dbl	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♥	Dbl	All pass	

Madala first made a devastating double and then defended very well. Spade led to the king, spade return to the queen. ♥9 to the ten and queen, ♠A for a diamond discard and another trump, ducked to North's eight.

When Brink misguessed on the diamond return by putting up the king, he found himself down two for a costly +500 out of thin air to Allegra.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
	Pass	INT	2♠
Dbl	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass

More convincing bidding at the other table let the Italians escape undoubled for +200 to De Lombard but 7 Imps to Allegra.

In the other semifinal, Bamberg showed how to cope with this type of hands:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Sementa</i>
	Pass	INT	2♠
3♥	All pass		

If you play 3♥ as invitational, East has the choice of passing it.

One down, Parioli +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>
	Pass	INT	2♠
3NT	Pass	4♥	All pass

Here, Versace showed hearts but the bidding sounded very convincing, so again the Italians escaped undoubled. Bamberg +200 and 3 Imps to take the lead 51-48.

In the Allegra match, the last three boards should have been pushes as well, but something happened on the way to the Forum:

Board: 12. Dealer West/NS

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
1♣	Dbl	Pass	2♣
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All pass	

On the lead of two top clubs and a spade switch ducked and continued, Ferraro only needed the ♦K onside to come to ten tricks. ♠A, diamond finesse, heart to his hand, diamond finesse, ♦A for a spade discard and a high cross-ruff. Allegra +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
1♣	Dbl	Pass	2♥
Dbl	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♥	All pass	

Play went along the same lines but the score for De Lombard was only +170. These 10 Imps more to Allegra gave them a 87-47 lead at half time.

Semifinals	<h2 style="margin: 0;">The semifinals, third segment</h2>	by Jos Jacobs
Segment 3		

When I left you at halftime, Allegra were clearly heading towards a place in the final, I thought. With just 12 boards to play, the complexion of this semifinal has changed dramatically. Nothing very much had happened on the first nine boards, De Lombard just taking an 11-0 lead, but then they managed to register three consecutive big swings to nearly level the match.

To end the reports on the semifinals for this issue of our Bulletin, here are two of those boards. As there will be a final Bulletin tonight you will be able to read more about the semis in that issue, as well as about the finals played today.

Board: 10. Dealer East/All

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Vivaldi</i>
1♠	Dbl	3♠	4♦
4♠	All pass		

Though 4♠ was not made at all tables it is difficult to find a legitimate way to beat it. On a diamond lead, Ramondt won the ace and drew three rounds of trumps before leading a heart from his hand. When the ace appeared his problems were over. De Lombard +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>
1♠	Dbl	3♠	4♦
All pass			

De Wijs' light take-out double brought rich rewards when Muller's 4♦ bid silenced everyone. In fact, NS nearly have a game here: only a club lead beats it as West gets a ruff. De Lombard +150 and 13 Imps when West led a heart trying to beat 4♦.

Board: 12. Dealer West/NS

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Vivaldi</i>
1♥	2♦	4♥	5♦
Dbl	All pass		

A good save at the wrong moment: duplication of values in the majors and, what is worse, red v. green. Down three, another +800 to De Lombard and a good moment, right at the interval, to see my bookmaker again.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>
1♥	2♦	4♦	Pass
4♥	All pass		

After the 4♦ splinter by Bocchi, Muller wisely refrained from bidding on and thus lost just 480 when 12 tricks were made. De Lombard had scored another 8 Imps, 27 in all over the last three boards, to trail by 3 with 12 to play. A tense final segment was in the air.