



Daily Bulletin

No. 3

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Today's final:

Parioli v. Sygnity

Besides played:

Bamberg v. Eko-AI for 3rd place

France v. Reykjavikur for 5th place

and Gamax v. Modalfa for 9th place



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RAG
PRETZEL STICKS

Sygnity
competence on



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Results – Day 3 – Semifinals

SEMIFINAL A

	seg. 1	seg. 2	seg. 3	seg. 4	imps
TENNIS CLUB PARIOLI ANGELINI	40	29	21	38	128
BAMBERGER REITER	47	25	31	21	124
SYGNITY AZS POLITECHNIKA WROCŁAW	42	40	36		118
EKO-AL POZNAŃ	11	16	26		53

SEMIFINAL B

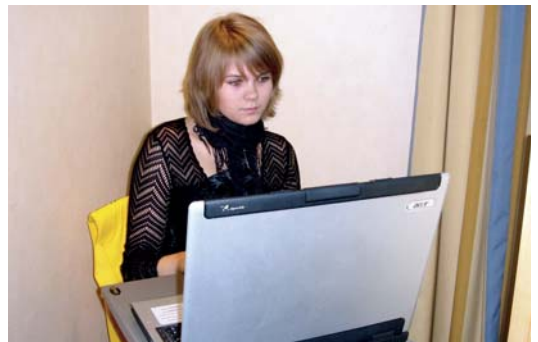
	seg. 1	seg. 2	seg. 3	seg. 4	imps
BERGEN AKADEMISKE BK	38	28	12	25	103
FRANCE NATIONAL CHAMPION	30	21	42	28	121
BRIDGEFÉLAG REYKJAVÍKUR	64	15	36	47	162
DE BOTTON BRIDGE TEAM	1	53	42	25	121

SEMIFINAL C

	seg. 1	seg. 2	seg. 3	seg. 4	imps
MODALFA	41	75			116
KELVIN AND MALONE CLUB	22	13			35
GAMAX	33	44	23	39	139
ÖRERBRIDGEN	44	25	31	30	130



Semifinals



Anna Kijas – BBO operator

Individual Butler Classification

place		imp/brd	boards	1-1	1-2	1-3	1-4
1	Wojciech Olański SYGNITY	0.85	84	+3	+15		
	Włodzimierz Starkowski SYGNITY	0.85	84	+3	+15		
3	Lorenzo Lauria PARIOLI ANGELINI	0.83	148	+4	+10	+16	+18
	Alfredo Versace PARIOLI ANGELINI	0.83	148	+4	+10	+16	+18
5	Andrei Gromov SYGNITY	0.61	84		+18	-2	
	Aleksander Dubinin SYGNITY	0.61	84		+18	-2	
7	Jón Baldursson REYKJAVÍKUR	0.59	116	+27		+13	+21
8	Claudio Nunes PARIOLI ANGELINI	0.58	84		0		+1
	Fulvio Fantoni PARIOLI ANGELINI	0.58	84		0		+1
10	Josef Piekarek BAMBERGER REITER	0.52	108	+24	0	+20	-18
	Tomasz Gotard BAMBERGER REITER	0.52	108	+24	0	+20	-18
12	Gábor Winkler GAMAX	0.43	148	-5	+18	+4	+13
	Géza Homonnay GAMAX	0.43	148	-5	+18	+4	+13
14	Leon Jacobs MODALFA	0.39	124	-6	+58		
	Maarten Schollaardt MODALFA	0.39	124	-6	+58		
16	Adam Żmudziński SYGNITY	0.38	104	+29		+14	
	Cezary Balicki SYGNITY	0.38	104	+29		+14	
18	Bjarni Hólmur Einarsson REYKJAVÍKUR	0.32	148	+56	-16	-19	+13
	Sigurbjörn Haraldsson REYKJAVÍKUR	0.32	148	+56	-16	-19	+13
20	Andreas Kirmse BAMB. REITER	0.28	72	-4			
	Michael Gromöller BAMB. REITER	0.28	72	-4			
22	Porlákur Jónsson REYKJAVÍKUR	0.26	136	+27	-33		+21
23	Marc Bompis FRANCE	0.25	136	-6		+24	+17
	Jean-Christophe Quantin FRANCE	0.25	136	-6		+24	+17
25	Michael Elinescu BAMB. REITER	0.22	116		-10	-16	-1
	Entscho Władow BAMB. REITER	0.22	116		-10	-16	-1
27	Bjørn Olav Ekren BERGEN	0.07	96	+6		-14	-17
	Bjørn Bentzen BERGEN	0.07	96	+6		-14	-17
29	Krzysztof Buras EKO-AL	0.06	136	-3	-18	+2	
	Grzegorz Narkiewicz EKO-AL	0.06	136	-3	-18	+2	

Individual Butler Classification – continued

31	Peter Nordén ÖRERBRIDGEN	-0.02	116	+8	+7	+10
	Bo-Henry Ek ÖRERBRIDGEN	-0.02	116	+8	+7	+10
33	David Burn DE BOTTON	-0.06	136		+16	-13 -21
34	Georges Blumenthal FRANCE	-0.07	44	+6	-6	
	Philippe Toffier FRANCE	-0.07	44	+6	-6	
36	Jeroen Bruggeman MODALFA	-0.11	124	+20	+7	
	Gert-Jan Paulissen MODALFA	-0.11	124	+20	+7	
38	Arne Thomassen BERGEN	-0.14	96	-6	+4	+14
	Helge Hantveit BERGEN	-0.14	96	-6	+4	+14
40	Sverrir Ármannsson REYKJAVÍKUR	-0.14	44		-33	+13
41	Rex Anderson KELVIN & MALONE	-0.19	124	+6	-7	
	David Greenwood KELVIN & MALONE	-0.19	124	+6	-7	
43	Albert Faigenbaum FRANCE	-0.2	116		-4	+14 -14
	Thomas Bessis FRANCE	-0.2	116		-4	+14 -14
45	Christer Bjäring ÖRERBRIDGEN	-0.2	64	+5	-18	
	Leif Svenzon ÖRERBRIDGEN	-0.2	64	+5	-18	
47	Marian Kupnicki EKO-AL	-0.21	52	-29		
	Leszek Majdański EKO-AL	-0.21	52	-29		
49	Nick Sandqvist DE BOTTON	-0.34	148	-56	+33	+19 -13
	Artur Malinowski DE BOTTON	-0.34	148	-56	+33	+19 -13
51	Arild Rasmussen BERGEN	-0.35	104		+6	-24
	Thomas Charlsen BERGEN	-0.35	104		+6	-24
53	Justin Hackett DE BOTTON	-0.38	136	-27		-13 -21
54	Konrad Araszkiwicz EKO-AL	-0.38	84		-15	-14
	Krzysztof Jassem EKO-AL	-0.38	84		-15	-14
56	Janet de Botton DE BOTTON	-0.46	24	-27	+16	
57	Jan-Olov Andersson ÖRERBRIDGEN	-0.5	116		+4	-4 -13
	Göran Petersson ÖRERBRIDGEN	-0.5	116		+4	-4 -13
59	Gábor Macskásy GAMAX	-0.9	148	-8	-4	-7 -10
	Péter Lakatos GAMAX	-0.9	148	-8	-4	-7 -10
61	Francesco Angelini PARIOLI ANGELINI	-0.91	64	-24		-20
	Dano De Falco PARIOLI ANGELINI	-0.91	64	-24		-20
63	Ian Lindsay KELVIN & MALONE	-1.51	124	-20	-58	
	Robin Burns KELVIN & MALONE	-1.51	124	-20	-58	

A few boards from Round 5

by Jos Jacobs

The last qualifying round did not produce much drama, this time. In group B the two leading teams played each other, but their margin was so big that even a big result would probably not affect their qualification. In group A, only a big win for Modalfa over Parioli would open up the race for qualification again, as Eko-Al, 2nd at the start of the round, were 5 V.P. ahead of Modalfa and about the same margin behind Parioli.

As it turned out, both matches were decided on a few slam hands.

Take for example board 7:

Board 7	♠J765		
Dealer S	♥97		
Vul All	♦J10852		
	♣75		
♠AQ104		♠K92	
♥KQ54		♥AJ1032	
♦96		♦A73	
♣J83		♣A4	
	♠83		
	♥86		
	♦KQ4		
	♣KQ10962		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dubinin</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
Dble	1♥	Dble	1♦
2♥	Pass	4♥	2♣
			All pass

At this table, we saw the normal contract and result: one overtrick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	2♣
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♥	All pass

The Germans were far more ambitious but they justified their bidding in the play.

South led the ♣K to the ace, trumps were drawn and a club was taken by South's queen. South continued a club to dummy's jack and Piekarek simply went on to cash the ♠A and play a spade to the nine, an odds-on line with the clubs 6-2. Twelve tricks and 13 imps to Bamberg.

And another example:

Board 13	♠8654		
Dealer N	♥AK653		
Vul All	♦3		
	♣J96		
♠AQJ7		♠K92	
♥J7		♥Q	
♦A97654		♦KQ2	
♣A		♣K87542	
	♠103		
	♥109842		
	♦J108		
	♣Q103		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Paulissen</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Bruggeman</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	1♥	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♦	All pass		

A natural auction to the best contract for a well-deserved +1370 for Parioli.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Schollaard</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♦	All pass		

The Precision style approach did not make it any easier for EW as responder's suits tend to remain in the dark. No exception here and 13 more imps to Parioli.

Gromov-Dubinin showed the way in our other featured match:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dubinin</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♦	All pass		



Semifinals – Sygnity v. Eko-Al

3♦ showed the suit and the rest was much easier.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♦	All pass		

After the jump to 2♦ one would expect EW to reach their slam easily enough but this was not to be.

So 13 imps to Sygnity as well.

The most remarkable auction occurred at a table where East opened 1♣ and South overcalled 1♦. After this, EW reached a rather poorish 3NT against which North duly led his fourth-best heart to give away both the contract and the 13th trick.

The final scores in our two matches were 20-10 V.P. to Parioli and 18-12 V.P. to Sygnity. Nothing very much had happened; in both groups the two teams leading after Round 4 would go through.

The Semifinals – Segment 1

by Jos Jacobs and Peter Ventura

The first 12 boards of the semifinals proved to be a very lively set. As many hands were of interest in both the semis, the most efficient way to report about it is to present both matches simultaneously. So in the story below we will switch from one match to another at almost every board. For the sake of transparency it should also be mentioned that this report is a combined effort by your editors Peter (ther match) and Jos (Polish match to be referred to as Sygnity v. Eko).

Right on board 1, slam looked a good proposition on paper but game proved too difficult at some tables:

Board 1	♠K8542		
Dealer N	♥K65		
Vul None	♦J964		
	♣K		
♠J10963			♠—
♥43			♥AJ1087
♦KQ87			♦10532
♣64			♣10873
	♠AQ7		
	♥Q92		
	♦A		
	♣AQJ952		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>De Falco</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	Dble	3♦	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromoeller</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	2♥	3♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6NT	All pass	

The Germans never introduced the spade suit, instead they reached 6NT. Lauria had to find the diamond lead to beat the contract, otherwise the squeeze works on West. A club was led, so would Gromoeller work out the squeeze? No, he won the trick in hand and played a heart up towards the queen at trick two – and now the squeeze tempo was blown away. One down; N/S –50.

To succeed you have to play a heart to the king, East has to win his ace, and then West eventually will be squeezed in spades and diamonds.

Angelini and De Falco didn't have any higher ambitions on this board and stopped in 3NT. That was worth 11 IMPs to Parioli and a very good start for them.

The Polish match:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Olański</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	2♥	Dbl
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All pass			

South's double was support, showing three spades and the final contract produced 11 tricks when West led from his doubleton heart. Sygnyty +460.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Kupnicki</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Majdański</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All pass	

This contract, too, should be an easy enough make but declarer did not take the necessary precautionary measure. He got a diamond lead to dummy's ace and immediately crossed to the ♣K instead of cashing a top trump from dummy first. Once the 5-0 break is revealed, you will know that ruffing a diamond will produce the game-going trick. His plan was to unblock the clubs and play for trumps 3-2 so after the ♣K he laid down the ♠K. From now on, there was no way to recover: one down and 11 imps to Sygnyty.

Board 3	♠A3		
Dealer S	♥A10		
Vul E/W	♦K1074		
	♣QJ752		
♠J97		♠10852	
♥98		♥7652	
♦AQ6		♦J982	
♣AK1093		♣8	
	♠KQ64		
	♥KQJ43		
	♦53		
	♣64		



Semifinals – Bergen Akademiske BK v. France

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>De Falco</i>
			1♥
2♣	All pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromoeller</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>
			1♥
Dbl	Redbl	1♠	Dble
All pass			

In the Closed Room Kirmse produced an old-fashioned penalty-double over 1♠. There is no play to escape for less than 800, unless some help comes from above. Kirmse led the king of hearts then shifted to a diamond through dummy's tenace. Declarer played low from dummy and North won the king. Gromoeller continued in diamonds to dummy's queen. Lauria hoped to get some heart ruffs in dummy, so he exited with a heart, but the defence won the ace and then played three rounds of trumps. South pumped on hearts and when the smoke had cleared Lauria had only four tricks in his basket: two club tricks, one diamond and one trump trick. That was a juicy 800 for the Germans.



Semifinals – Modalfá v. Kelvin and Malone Club

have cue-bid 4♦ instead of leaping to 5♣ the Italians would have been playing in slam. Now De Falco didn't have any other option than to pass. Would the Germans find the cold slam?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Gromoeller</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♣	All pass	

Yes, they did. This bread and butter-auction was worth 13 IMPs to Bamberg, who now was leading by 24-11.

In the Polish match, however, they would have nothing of it:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Olański</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

Pretty straightforward and 12 tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Kupnicki</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Majdański</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT

Extremely straightforward and 12 tricks.

Board 7	♠A85		
Dealer S	♥Q84		
Vul All	♦A108		
	♣KJ107		
		W	E
♠K10		N	♠Q93
♥J962		S	♥A753
♦J432			♦KQ765
♣Q82			♣6
	♠J7642		
	♥K10		
	♦9		
	♣A9543		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>De Falco</i>
			Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromoeller</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♠
3♦	Pass	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

For some reason declarer in the Open Room went one off in 2♠. With the spades behaving it should be a case of guessing the club suit – to make ten tricks... At the other table, however, Kirmse got a diamond lead to the ace and then he played a heart

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>De Falco</i>
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

De Falco took the chance that N/S would have enough to be in the slam zone, but there were two quick diamond losers. However, Piekarek didn't find the killing diamond lead, instead he led a club. Unless the trumps are split 4-0, the only thing declarer now has to do is to win a heart trick in dummy and then ruff a heart. When Angelini chose another line he went down; N/S -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromoeller</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the Closed Room Gromoeller was very lucky that Lauria didn't find the diamond lead against 3 NT considering 4♠ is cold. Lauria led a low club and declarer had ten easy tricks; N/S +430 and that was another 12 imps to Bamberg.

Board 8
Dealer W
Vul None

♠983
♥J876
♦AK105
♣QJ

♠QJ7642
♥5
♦J4
♣10862

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠AK5
♥AKQ432
♦32
♣A3

♠10
♥109
♦Q9876
♣K9754

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>De Falco</i>
	5♣	Dble	Pass
6♥	6♠	Dble	7♣
Dble	All Pass		

Angelini did well here as he really put some pressure on E/W by opening 5♣. Piekarek had an awkward decision but finally decided to double for take-out with his general values. Over Gotard's 6♥ Angelini did well again as he introduced his second suit – at the six-level! De Falco corrected to 7♣ – a good sacrifice. E/W would have recorded 1400 here but the lead of the trump ace surprisingly dropped partner's king, so 1100 to E/W. Would Versace-Lauria bid slam – and if yes, on which level?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromoeller</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	2NT	Pass	3♣
Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
Redble	Pass	4♣	Dble
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass

The redouble showed first round control in spades. Versace gave 7♥ a thought for five minutes or so. Finally he passed, since he thought it would be too much of a gamble to bid the grand slam. As the cards lie, in 6♥ it is safe to cash the ace of trumps then cross to dummy to play a trump up. That was the winning line Versace chose; E/W -1430 and 8 imps to TC Parioli.

Board 10	♠A82
Dealer E	♥952
Vul All	♦K
	♣K87642
♠75	♠KQ1064
♥AQJ1086	♥4
♦AJ2	♦Q9543
♣A10	♣53
	♠J93
	♥K73
	♦10876
	♣QJ9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>De Falco</i>
		2♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Angelini led a trump and when declarer took the diamond finesse the defence established a club trick which gave them one trick in each suit, just enough to beat the game; N/S +100.

Closed Room

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

Lauria took ten tricks in 2♠, E/W -170 and that was worth 7 imps to Parioli, who now was trailing by 20 imps with two boards to go in the first segment.

In the Polish match, both Wests bid 4♥ sooner or later after East opened 2♠ on his twosuit with a minor. When both Norths (!) found the defence-killing lead of the ♦K, both declarers had an easy road to 10 tricks.

The next board was yet another slam but finding out about the maximum number of tricks available was the real problem:

Board 11	♠A5
Dealer S	♥K983
Vul None	♦A7
	♣Q9742
♠Q983	♠J2
♥J654	♥Q1072
♦J9	♦KQ8543
♣863	♣5
	♠K10764
	♥A
	♦1062
	♣AKJ10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>De Falco</i>
			1♠
Pass	2♣	2♦	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
All pass			

6♣ is cold but Angelini was putting a brake on here, as he did on board 4. N/S +400 turned out to be a good score when the auction in the Closed Room was the following:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromoeller</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>
			1♠
Pass	2♣	2♦	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	7♣	All Pass	

3♥ was splinter and it didn't excite Gromoeller very much, but the rest of the auction must have. 3♠ asked for key cards in clubs, 4♦ showed three key cards, 4♠ asked about kings and 4NT showed the spade king. Gromoeller knew they were missing the king of diamonds but he hoped that the spade suit would solve that problem. If the black suits would have split better this should be a decent grand slam, but this was not the day, so one down, E/W -50 and that was 10 imps to Parioli.

Mainly the same problems in the Polish match:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Olański</i>
			1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Redbl	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	5NT
Pass	7♣	All pass	

As we already saw, this will work with ♠ 3-3 or ♣ 2-2 so this time, one down was the outcome.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Kupnicki</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Majdański</i>
			1♠
Pass	2♣	2♦	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	3♣
All pass			

Not a very ambitious effort, but at least good for 10 much-needed imps back to EKO.



Semifinals – Sygnity v. Eko-Al

On the last board of this very lively set, a double of the final contract gave declarers a vital clue, which they did not always exploit fully:

Board 12 ♠AQJ7
Dealer W ♥2
Vul N/S ♦102
 ♣AKJ1065

♠— ♥AK1063 ♦AQ763 ♣843	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> N W S E </div>	♠98543 ♥Q9 ♦954 ♣Q92
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♠K1062
 ♥J8754
 ♦KJ8
 ♣7

Closed Room

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

Versace had the chance to pass out 2♠ but when he didn't N/S ended up bidding game instead. The game is beatable on a trump



J. De Botton

lead (or the heart queen) but Lauria's low diamond gave declarer a chance. Versace won the queen of diamonds, cashed the two red aces and then played a low heart. If declarer ruffs it with the seven of trumps he will have an easy journey. Gromoeller however chose to ruff with the jack followed by playing the trump ace, which gave Lauria a trump trick at the end; E/W -200.

The winning line is to ruff with the seven of spades and then play the two tops in clubs followed by a club ruff, diamond king and cross ruff to ten tricks. East would have needed that six of spades instead of the five...

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>De Falco</i>
1♥	Dble	Pass	1♠
2♦	2♥	Dble	4♣
All Pass			

De Falco did not find the winning line either (he was not doubled) and went one off; E/W -100 but still 3 imps to Parioli.

The Polish match:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Olański</i>
1♥	Dbl	Pass	2♠
3♦	4♣	Dbl	All pass

On the lead of two top hearts, Olański had no problem whatsoever. He ruffed with dummy's ♠7, cashed the ♣AK and then followed the line suggested above: a complete cross-ruff in hearts and clubs, East's trump spots not being able to do any harm. Sygnity +790.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Kupnicki</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Majdański</i>
1♥	2♣	All pass	

At the other table, declarer was not tested. On the lead of the ♥Q and a spade shift, ruffed by West, there were just eight tricks for a score of +90 and a further gain of 12 imps for Sygnity.

The scores after one segment from four: Bamberg-Parioli 47-40 and Sygnity-EKO 42-11.



Semifinals – Parioli v. Bamberg

The Semifinals – Segment 2

by Jos Jacobs

After the first segment, Sygnity had taken a healthy lead against EKO, whereas the Parioli *v.* Bamberg match was wide open. As it happened, Sygnity gradually went on to increase their lead but the other match remained wide open. In this report I will therefore concentrate on the Parioli-Bamberg match, though some bits and pieces from other matches will also turn up.

The first board of interest was #15:

Board 15	♠94		
Dealer S	♥8752		
Vul N/S	♦1095		
	♣6532		
♠KQ763		N	♠J1052
♥KJ4		W	♥963
♦KQ8		E	♦A72
♣K8		S	♣AQ10
	♠A8		
	♥AQ10		
	♦J643		
	♣J974		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
			1NT
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Redbl
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All pass		

The weak NT was very well caught here by the Germans but the defence was not ideal so the contract was down only three on a spade lead. Still +800 to Bamberg, more than enough against their non-vulnerable game.

In the Modalfa *v.* Kelvin & Malone match the Irish also adopted a weak NT, so the auction at that table was exactly the same. When East led a heart the defence were able, however, to come to all their tricks so the penalty amounted to 1,400. Well done, Jacobs-Schollaardt (the Dutch EW pair).

Back to Parioli *v.* Bamberg:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
			1♦
Dbl	Redbl	1♥	Dbl
4♠	All pass		

An unexciting 11 tricks for +450 and 8 imps to Bamberg.

The next board was a cold 7♣ and also a reasonable 7NT. When EKO missed the grand, Sygnity had increased their lead by 11 more imps.

A remarkable board, though not in our featured match, was #19:

Board 19	♠108653		
Dealer S	♥A1076		
Vul E/W	♦9		
	♣985		
♠KQ		N	♠AJ4
♥—		W	♥KQJ984
♦A7543		E	♦QJ
♣AKQJ104		S	♣76
	♠972		
	♥532		
	♦K10862		
	♣32		

Both pairs reached 6♣ and this cannot be defeated, not even on a spade lead. You win, draw trumps, play a spade to dummy's ace and run the ♥K, throwing a diamond. North can win but has to bring you back to dummy with any return. If he ducks, you take a winning diamond finesse later.

An excursion now to the match between De Botton and Reykjavikur. After 12 boards, the Icelanders led 64-1 but in the second segment, the English team had started a rally. They were 25-1 up in this segment when board 19 popped up:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Burn</i>	<i>Haraldsson</i>	<i>De Botton</i>	<i>Einarsson</i>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♣	Pass	7♣	All pass

What would you lead as North against this auction? Almost anything will do... When North could not resist temptation and led the ♥A, declarer's problems were all over.

In the other room, it was a different story:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Armannsson</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Jonsson</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	All pass

After this one-sided auction, declarer made 11 tricks for a further 16-imp loss. The segment score in that match now stood at 41-1...

In the Polish semifinal, Sygnity duly reached 6♣ but EKO fell short at 4♥, losing another 12 imps...

Back now to Parioli v. Bamberg again.

A remarkable contrast in bidding approach led to a vulnerable game swing to Parioli on the next board:

Board 20	♠QJ3		
Dealer W	♥84		
Vul All	♦AK109		
	♣KQ86		
♠AK10954		N	♠87
♥AQ1073		W	♥96
♦3		E	♦Q8652
♣J		S	♣A532
	♠62		
	♥KJ52		
	♦J74		
	♣10974		

Open Room

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

Ten tricks, Bamberg +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
1♠	1NT	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♠	All pass

Lauria jumped to 4♠ where Piekarek passed. Wladow led the ♠DA and continued the

♠Q but Versace won, crossed to the ♣A and simply ran the ♥9. When this held, the rest was easy.

Just made and 10 imps back to Parioli.

Slam time again on the very next board:

Board 21
Dealer N
Vul N/S

♠AK8
 ♥KQ
 ♦AK876
 ♣K63

♠J976
 ♥J10753
 ♦105
 ♣Q4

♠Q1042
 ♥9862
 ♦Q2
 ♣1052

♠53
 ♥A4
 ♦J943
 ♣AJ987

4♣ was RKC in clubs and the play presented no problems. Bamberg +12 imps to lead by 28 now.

Parioli scored 6 imps on a better partscore on 22 and then we saw yet another slam:

Board 23
Dealer S
Vul All

♠AQ105
 ♥108632
 ♦9
 ♣J106

♠4
 ♥A5
 ♦AKQ43
 ♣AK983

♠K82
 ♥94
 ♦J87652
 ♣42

♠J9763
 ♥KQJ7
 ♦10
 ♣Q75

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
All pass			

This smells like a slight misunderstanding between the two Italians. Parioli +690.

The German Strong Club worked well:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
	1♣	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♣	All pass	

Open Room

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

Nunes' "ugly" overcall did its job as it created unexpected problems for EW. Maybe, 3♠ by West has to show minors in an auction like this...

Twelve easy tricks, Bamberg +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
			Pass
1♦	Pass	3♦	Dbl
6♦	All pass		

When Versace could open 1♦ naturally, EW were bound to reach the slam, as you can see from Versace's rebid. Parioli +1370 and 13imps back.

In the Polish semifinal, we also had a slam swing on this board. Here are the two auctions:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
			Pass
1♦	Pass	3♦	Dbl
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	All pass

Interesting to see that you CAN miss the slam after a natural 1♦ opening bid.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olański</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Araszkiewicz</i>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦	All pass		

The strong variation of the Polish Club made life easy for first East and then West. Well bid!



Semifinals – Sygnity v. Eko-Al

The final board of the segment was a slam as well. No swing in the Parioli-Bamberg match but for once, a swing in favour of the EKO team in the Polish semifinal.

Board 23		♠AQ105				
Dealer S		♥108632				
Vul All		♦9				
		♣J106				
♠4		<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠K82
N						
W E						
S						
♥A5		♥94				
♦AKQ43		♦J87652				
♣AK983		♣42				
		♠J9763				
		♥KQJ7				
		♦10				
		♣Q75				

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠
All pass			

The NS hands were not very suitable for this way of bidding them. Sygnity +480.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olański</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Araszkiewicz</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
All pass			

The EKO pair were on the brink of missing the slam as well when Jassem found a neat solution. Ver well conceived and a deserved swing in their favour.

The halftime scores: Parioli-Bamberg 69-72 and Sygnity-EKO 82-27.

The Semifinals – Segment 3

Parioli v. Bamberger Reiter

by Jos Jacobs

Only 3 imps separated the two teams at halftime, so we were all expecting a tense 3rd segment and that's exactly what we got.

On the first four boards, nothing interesting happened so the difference was just 4 imps in favour of Bamberg when board 5 appeared:

Board 5	♠ J 10 5 4 2
Dealer N	♥ 9
Vul N/S	♦ AK 10 9
	♣ Q 8 6
♠ 6	♠ AKQ 9
♥ A 10 6 5 4	♥ K 7 2
♦ J 8 7 3	♦ Q 5 2
♣ AJ 7	♣ 10 4 3
	♠ 8 7 3
	♥ Q J 8 3
	♦ 6 4
	♣ K 9 5 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>De Falco</i>
	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All pass		

An aggressive opening bid by Angelini got caught by the Germans. If East starts off with his three top trumps, the likely outcome will be down two but, understandably so, he chose a different opening lead: a club. This ran round to the jack and queen but now, Angelini could play ♦ AK and ruff a diamond before dummy's

♥ Q lost to West's ace. Back came a trump, ducked to East's nine, and East cashed three more trumps before exiting with another club. When dummy's nine forced the ace, the contract was just one down, a possible good score with 3NT on for EW. Bamberg +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All pass		

Not surprisingly, however, Lauria-Versace ended up in their decent 5-3 heart fit. This got beaten quite easily when the defence began with three rounds of diamonds. Bamberg +50 and 6 imps to lead by 10.

A few boards later, Elinescu found a fine lead:

Board 8	♠ 8 6 3
Dealer W	♥ J 8 6 3
Vul None	♦ Q 2
	♣ J 9 6 3
♠ 10 9 4	♠ K Q 2
♥ A Q 10 7 5	♥ K 4
♦ A 8	♦ J 10 9 7 6 4
♣ K 8 4	♣ Q 10
	♠ A J 7 5
	♥ 9 2
	♦ K 5 3
	♣ A 7 5 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>De Falco</i>
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All pass

When De Falco made the unlucky lead of a low spade, declarer had been given a chance to survive. Dummy's ten won and four rounds of hearts came next, North winning his jack in the end. On a spade return, the contract might still have gone down but the actual return of the ♦Q solved declarer's problems. Ten tricks in the end, Bamberg +430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All pass		

Elinescu led the ♥9 to the ten, jack and king. Lauria now put his money on the diamonds, playing the ♦J to the ace and continuing the suit. North won the queen and led a spade to Lauria's king, Elinescu smoothly playing low, of course. Another diamond went to South's king and back came a heart to dummy. Lauria had to guess now how to get back to his hand. A club to the 10 would have worked but a spade to the queen did not. The defenders now had three spades, two diamonds and the ♣A for down two, +100 to Bamberg and 11 imps to lead by 21.

Two boards later, we saw the biggest swing so far in the match and it went to Rome:

Board 10		♠A52		♥A1064		♦J2		♣QJ102	
Dealer E		♥A1064		♦J2		♣QJ102			
Vul All		♠J9743		♥3		♦K1087653		♣—	
		♠Q106		♥QJ872		♦94		♣654	
		♠K8		♥K95		♦AQ		♣AK9873	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>De Falco</i>
2♦	Dbl	Pass	1♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	6♣	All pass	4♦

The 4♦ cue was all Angelini needed, holding two aces himself. When East split his heart honours in the second round of the suit, declarer was home and dry for a fine +1370.

Please note that the 2♦ overcall was ineffective.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
4♦	Dbl	Pass	1♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♥	All pass	5♥

After the strong club the bold 4♦ bid proved effective here when the Germans

managed to find a 3-4 fit instead of settling for their 6-4 fit. Down two and a tremendous swing of 17 imps to Parioli to reduce the deficit to just 8 imps again.

In another match, NS showed how to cope with a 4♦ overcall:

West	North	East	South
<i>Burn</i>	<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Armannsson</i>
		Pass	1♣
4♦	Dbl	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All pass	

If you are not yet convinced, look at how they bid at the other table in this same match:

West	North	East	South
<i>Einarsson</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Haraldsson</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>
		Pass	1♣
4♦	Dbl	Pass	6♣
All pass			

No swing.

On board 11, De Falco judged well when he did not take the save with neither side vulnerable and gained 2 more imps but on the last board, he was a trifle unlucky:

Board 12
Dealer W
Vul N/S

♠K8
♥AQ976
♦105
♣10743

♠106
♥J85
♦AKQ976
♣K2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠94
♥K1032
♦8
♣AJ9865

♠AQJ7532
♥4
♦J432
♣Q



Semifinals – Parioli v. Bamberg

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>De Falco</i>
1♦	1♥	2♣	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All pass

Had the heart finesse been right, this might have been a different story, though West would certainly have led a trump after, or even before, seeing dummy.

When west cashed two diamonds before leading a trump De Falco escaped with just one down for a loss of 200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
1♦	1♥	2♣	3♠
4♦	All pass		

A trump lead might well have beaten 3♠ but Versace persisted with diamonds instead.

Down two when a third round of spades promoted a second trump trick for the defence, after the heart ruff. Bamberg another +100 for 7 imps and a lead of 13 with just 12 boards to play.

The final segment of this match looked as exciting a prospect as last year in Rome...

Tough game

by Marek Wójcicki

Alfredo Versace is regarded by many as one of the best experts in the declarer play in the world. Among other things, he was awarded the IBPA prize for the best declarer play of 2006.

In one of the matches of the robin round of European Champions Cup, between Tennis Club Parioli Angelini and Eko-Al Poznań, he showed that his card reading skills and finding the clues from opponents' plays represent the highest level. Let's look...

Board 16, WE vulnerable. Dealer West. The bidding went:


W	N	E	S
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Buras</i>
1BA	Pass	2♥ ¹⁾	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦ ²⁾	Pass
4♦ ³⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass

1) transfer for spades

2) 4+clubs, game forcing


3) fit in spades, great fit in clubs, maximum

Narkiewicz led ♣2:

Versace		
♠1052		♠KW874
♥A106		♥KW7
♦K6		♦2
♣AKDW6		♣9543

To the low club, played from the dummy, South followed with 7. Versace took the trick with the jack, and trying to cut the

communication between the defenders, played the ♦K. N took the trick with the ace and played another club, ruffed by South with the trump six. After ruff South exited with the ♦Q. Declarer ruffed in dummy, entered the hand with the heart ace, reaching the following ending:

Versace		
♠1052		♠KW87
♥106		♥KW
♦—		♦—
♣KDW		♣95

Now Versace played a trump. N followed the suit with three, and the moment of truth came...

What to do? Declarer tried to find the clues leading to the right solution.

North, a very good player, led a club – the suit which was mentioned as the second source of the tricks of the declarer. It is unusual lead. The player must have a signi-



Alfredo Versace

ficant reason to throw up the red suit lead after such a bidding. The opponents can take easy 10 tricks in black suits while the defenders can make an effort to cash four tricks earlier.

Club lead is obviously done for a ruff. By the leader, or by his partner. Here the declarer saw, that the club was led to give partner a ruff. Such choice of a lead without trump control usually is discarded at first view. So there is strong reason to believe that North has the trump ace.

Following this way, Versace played from dummy the king! And he could be satisfied, when the queen appeared from South...

Now the contract was brought home. Look at the complete hand:

Board 16	♠A93		
Dealer W	♥842		
Vul W/E	♦A1053		
	♣1082		
♠1052		N	♠KW874
♥A106		W	♥KW7
♦K6		E	♦2
♣AKDW6		S	♣9543
	♠D6		
	♥D953		
	♦DW9874		
	♣7		

Brydzyk starszych panów?

Marek Wójcicki

Takim komentarzem niejednokrotnie oceniam swoje walki z parą Wojtek Olański–Włodek Starkowski. Grywamy już od ...dziestu lat (aż strach pomyśleć, co by tam trzeba wstawić z przodu), niejednokrotnie razem, niejednokrotnie przeciwko sobie i młodszy gracze stwierdzają z przekąsem, że to określenie jest właściwe. A wydaje mi się, że para Olański–Starkowski jest u nas niedoceniana. W drużynie klubowej pozostają w cieniu superpary Balicki–Żmudziński, z różnych względów od kilku lat nie pretendują do reprezentacji. A tymczasem... Wystarczy popatrzeć na klasyfikację Butlera (piszę te słowa po III segmencie półfinału), w której wyraźnie prowadzą. A stawka w Butlerze niegorsza – Fantoni–Nunes, Lauria–Versace, Balicki–Żmudziński, Gromow–Dubinin... Moż-

na by tę wyliczankę kontynuować, ale nie ma to sensu.

Doskonałą ilustracją tego, skąd bierze się ten wynik, jest ich gra w półfinale przeciwko drużynie Eko-Al. Popatrzmy, jak rozpoznał się mecz na ich stole:

Rozd. 1	♠K8542		
N, nikt	♥K65		
	♦W964		
	♣K		
♠W10963		N	♠—
♥43		W	♥AW1087
♦KD87		E	♦10532
♣64		S	♣10873
	♠AD7		
	♥D92		
	♦A		
	♣ADW952		

E 3-4-5-1 wynikał zarówno z licytacji – była mała szansa, aby powiedział on 3♦ z 2-4-5-2, a uprawdopodobniał to jeszcze przebieg rozegrania pików). W ten sposób licytacja i rozgrywka zostały zwieńczone sukcesem.

Na drugim stole para Eko-Al okazała się zupełnie nieprzygotowana na obronę stosowaną przez parę Balicki–Żmudziński po otwarciu 1♣ ze Wspólnego Języka (system Lambda):

Pokój zamknięty

W	N	E	S
<i>Żmudziński</i>	<i>Kupnicki</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Majdański</i>
pas	1♣	1♠ ¹⁾	pas?
1BA	pas	pas	pas?

1) co najmniej 5-4 w kolorach czerwonych lub czarnych

Ten „kontrakt” zakończył się wpadką bez trzech, za 300. Ale drużyna Sygnity zarobiła tu kolejne 8 imp.

No i ostatnie rozdanie pierwszego segmentu:

Pokój otwarty

W	N	E	S
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Olański</i>
1♥	ktr.	pas	2♠
3♦	4♠	ktr.?	pas...

Narkiewicz dał kontrę, delikatnie mówiąc, mało uzasadnioną... Do akcji przystąpił Wojtek Olański: Buras zaatakował asem kier. Narkiewicz dołożył w tej lewie damę. Buras powtórzył kiery królem. Rozgrywający przebił w stole siódmką atutu. Z posiadanej siły bez trudu wywnioskował, że jedynym uzasadnieniem dla kontry mogło być pięć atutów... W związku z tym, nie ruszając pików, zagrał asa, a potem króla trefli

Rozd. 12	♠ADW7	♠98543
W, NS	♥2	♥D9
	♦102	♦954
	♣AKW1065	♣D92
♠—		
♥AK1063	W N	
♦AD763	W S	
♣843		
	♠K1062	
	♥W8754	
	♦KW8	
	♣7	

i przebił trefla w ręce dwójką pik. Teraz przebił w stole kiera i zagrał fortę trefli. E przebił ósemką atutu. Wojtek nadbił dziesiątkę, ponownie przebił w stole kiera, i znów trefl... WE złożyli karty i para Sygnity zapisała sobie +790.

A na drugim stole, po identycznym otwarciu W, N wszedł proste 2♣... E i S spasowali, a Adam Żmudziński jest zbyt dobrym graczem, aby z trójką trefli ulec pokusie zgłoszenia drugiego koloru, nawet pięciokartowego...

Pokój zamknięty

W	N	E	S
<i>Żmudziński</i>	<i>Kupnicki</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Majdański</i>
1♥	2♣?	pas...	



Wlodek Starkowski

Ten skromny kontrakt został zrealizowany, ale drużyna Sygnity zarobiła kolejne 12 imp.

Że życie nie jest bajką, nasi bohaterowie mogli przekonać się w rozdaniu 11 tego segmentu:

Rozd. 11	♠A5		
S, nikt	♥K983		
	♦A7		
	♣D9742		
♠D983		N	♠W2
♥W654		W	♥D1072
♦W9		E	♦KD8543
♣863		S	♣5
	♠K10764		
	♥A		
	♦1062		
	♣AKW10		

Para Eko-Alu utknęła w końcówce:

Pokój zamknięty

	W	N	E	S
	<i>Żmudziński</i>	<i>Kupnicki</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Majdański</i>
				1♠
pas		2♣	2♦	3♣
pas		3♦	pas	3♥
pas		4♥?	pas	5♣
pas...				

Wydaje się, że nastąpiło tu nieporozumienie co do znaczenia odzywki 3♥... czyżby 4♥ było propozycją kontraktu? Majdański prawdopodobnie przyjął to za cue bid, i z jego pozycji do oddania były co najmniej dwa kara. W związku z tym zaliczył 5♣. Tym razem „umiar” został nagrodzony, bo Olański–Starkowski doszli do wielkiego szlema.

7♣ jest niezłym kontraktem – do jego wygrania wystarcza podział trefli 2-2 przy pikach nie gorzej niż 4-2 (przy 5-1 jest jeszcze szansa ♥DW10), a przy podziale trefli 3-1 piki muszą być 3-3 (bądź DW sec). Ile

to procent? Nie jestem biegłym procentmistrzem, chociaż podczas studiów byłem na praktyce w cukrowni, ale chyba około 60, co jak najbardziej uzasadnia jego zaliczowanie. Popatrzmy na sekwencję, która do niego doprowadziła:

Pokój otwarty

	W	N	E	S
	Buras	Starkowski	Narkiewicz	Olański
				1♠
pas		2♣	pas	3♣ ¹⁾
pas		3♦	ktr.	pas
pas		rktr. ²⁾	pas	3BA
pas		4♣	pas	4♥
pas		4BA	pas	5♦ ³⁾
pas		5♥ ⁴⁾	pas	5BA
pas		7♣	pas...	

1) nadwyżkowe

2) as karo

3) 4 wartości z 5

4) pytanie o króla

Starkowski docenił walory swojej karty – piąty trefl, as pik i ruszył ostro do przodu, pomimo „dotyłowego” 3BA Wojtka. Potem, w świetle otrzymanych informacji, jedynym ryzykiem było zastanie u partnera króla karo, a nie króla pik. Ale pas po kontrze na 3♦ wykluczał wartości w tym kolorze. Wobec tego król pik był pewny, a szlem nie mógł być gorszy niż był w rzeczywistości. A przecież partner mógł mieć jeszcze damę pik albo kier... Wtedy szlem byłby praktycznie z góry. A tak, przy niesprzyjających podziałach, trzeba było polec... 10 imp dla Eko-Alu. A wystarczyło zatrzymać się w szlemiku, aby zarobić tyle samo...

„Pierwsza dwunastka półfinałowego meczu Sygnity – Eko-AL, z której pochodzą powyższe rozdania, zakończyła się wynikiem 42-11 dla Sygnity. Ile z tej 31-punktowej przewagi zdobyli Olański–Starkowski własną grą? Oceńcie sami.