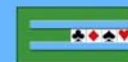




# Daily Bulletin



Tennis Club Parioli

100 Anni



1906 - 2006

## V EUROPEAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONS CUP

ROME

12th - 15th October 2006

Chief Editor: Jos Jacobs - Editors: Franco Broccoli, Mauro Saglia - Layout Editor: Nicola Di Stefano

Bulletin 5

Sunday 15th October 2006

# Bamberg B.C. take the European Cup to Germany



*Entscho Wladow, Tomasz Gotard, Andreas Kirmse, Michael Gromöller, Michael Elinescu and Josef Piekarek winners of the 5th European Champions Cup.*

Our sincere congratulations go to the Bamberg B.C. team on the first non-Italian victory in the European Champions Cup. Well done: Michael Gromöller, Andreas Kirmse, Michael Elinescu, Entscho Wladow, Tomasz Gotard and Josef Piekarek. On their way to the Cup, they beat Parioli Angelini in the semifinals and De Lombard in today's final. So our runners-up are De Lombard from Rotterdam, Netherlands. Berry Westra, Vincent Ramondt, Simon de Wijs, Bauke Muller, Bas Drijver and Sjoert Brink: well done too and congratulations on your silver medal.

This afternoon, we had an all-Italian final too, be it only a little one, for third place. It was won by the Allegra team who captured the bronze medal by doing so. Congratulations to their players: Maria Teresa Lavazza (non-playing captain), Agustin Madala, Guido Ferraro, Mario D'Avossa, Giorgio Duboin, Norberto Bocchi, Antonio Vivaldi.

So the holders, Rome's Parioli-Angelini team did not manage to make it four in a row, finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> spot which certainly must be a disappointment to them.

In the play-off for 5<sup>th</sup> place, EYKT from Iceland beat our last-minute replacement team, Mragowia from Poland who thus finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place. The play-off for 7<sup>th</sup> was won at the post by Vestfold from Norway when Tordas Gamax from Hungary just failed to catch them up.

### Content

Results - Rankings.....	2
EBL President's Farewell.....	2
The Semifinals, fourth segment.....	3
European Champions Cup Final, segment 1.....	8
European Champions Cup Final, segment 2.....	11
European Champions Cup Final, segment 3.....	14
A word from the Editor.....	15
European Champions Cup Final, segment 4.....	16

## Results

Final	Ses 1	Ses 2	Ses 3	Ses 4	Tot
Bamberg BC - Ger	31	34	30	42	137
The Lombard - Neth	46	2	4	21	73
Play Off 3rd place	Ses 1	Ses 2	Ses 3	Ses 4	Tot
TC Parioli - Italy	-	-	-	20	20
GSD Allegra - Italy	-	-	-	43	43
Play Off 5th place	Ses 1	Ses 2	Ses 3		Tot
Mragowia Si - Pol	30	24	24		78
EYKT - Iceland	37	41	18		96
Play Off 9th place	Ses 1	Ses 2	Ses 3		
Vestfold - Norway	43	24	11		78
Tordas Gamax - Hun	26	26	23		75

## Torneo Internazionale a Squadre

# MONTECARLO

Sporting d'hiver

10 - 12 novembre 2006

### Iscrizioni

- Squadre juniors: gratuite
- Squadre Signore: Euro 150,00
- Squadre Open: Euro 250,00

Prenotando e versando la relativa quota entro il 30 ottobre

sara' applicato uno sconto di Euro 50,00

**Informazioni, Prenotazioni, Iscrizioni**  
pattonmonaco@gmail.com

## EBL President's Farewell



Mr President of the Tennis Club Parioli, Authorities, dear colleagues, dear friends,

Once again we are at the end of a championship. As usual, more than usual, this competition has been played with fair-play and loyalty. Once again you have been able to show that the competition, the result is important, but more important are friendship, serenity, the pleasure of being together, and enjoying ourselves all together. For these reasons I want to express to you, the players, our gratitude and to thank you.

I am sure that you had a pleasant stay in Rome and in particular in Tennis Club Parioli: I believe that it is impossible to have a better welcome and hospitality than we received in this prestigious club, which this year celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I am pleased and honoured to award the President of the Tennis Club Parioli with the EBL plaque.

I wish to thank also our sponsor friends who allowed us to run this Championship successfully and in particular the main sponsor Angelini Group and Stelle dell'Orsa who provided the challenge trophy. I am pleased to award them with the EBL Plaque.

Dear Friends, let me close my speech thanking our fantastic staff led by Gianni Bertotto, and thanking the Organising Committee, led by my dear colleague and friend Lino Bove, the deus ex machine of this event. I am pleased to call Lino to the podium to award him with the EBL plaque.

And now we have to pass to prize-giving ceremony. I hope to see you, all of you, next year in Antalya, to participate in another great bridge championship.

Thank you for your attention.  
Gianarrigo Rona

<b>Semifinals</b>	<b>The semifinals, fourth segment</b>
<b>Segment 4</b>	by Jos Jacobs

At the start of the segment, Bamberg were leading Parioli 91-72 and Allegra led De Lombard 89-85. So the stage was set for a possible shock defeat of the holders, Parioli if only the Germans would be able to carry their lead over the next 12 boards. The other match, after the tremendous comeback by De Lombard (the score in the previous segment had been 38-2 to them) really looked anybody's game though the Dutch would feel much better at the start of the segment than their opponents... Even more so because the German team was playing very slowly, it turned out to be a tense, long and sensational evening here in Parioli, Rome. The tension mounted when really nothing happened on the first two boards, so there were only ten left. On board 3, things started to happen in the Parioli match.

**Board: 3. Dealer South/EW**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass

All pass

This 10-12 NT variation quietly went two down on the obvious club lead. Parioli +100.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All pass		

A remarkable auction: 12-14 NT opposite a passed hand. One wouldn't give a dime for this contract to succeed against Italian defence but when South

led a heart instead of a spade, declarer had at least avoided going down immediately. Now, had North won the ace and shifted to a low spade, all would have been well for the defence but when he played a diamond instead, not an illogical thing to do anyway, declarer rose with the ace and cashed four more heart tricks and six club tricks as well due to the lucky break. Bamberg +660 and 11 Imps to lead by 31.

The match got closer on the next board when a finesse was wrong for declarer.

**Board: 4. Dealer West/All**

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

**Open Room**

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

Eleven tricks, Parioli +650.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♥	All pass

Ten tricks, Parioli +200 and 13 Imps back to trail by 18.

On the next board, we saw small swings in both matches.

**Board: 5. Dealer North/NS**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All pass		

South led a diamond and declarer inserted dummy's ten. When this was covered by the jack, his best chance of making the contract had gone. He next led a heart to dummy and took a losing spade finesse. South won the queen and simply cleared the diamonds as he still had the ♥A as a sure entry. One down, Lombard +50.

**Closed Room**

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

When South led the ♠Q (Rusinow) declarer could not go down any more when the trumps broke 3-3. Lombard +140 and 5 Imps, to take the lead for the first time in the match: 93-89.

In the Parioli match, these were the auctions:

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	All pass		

Just made on a heart lead. Parioli +120.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All pass		

One down on a diamond lead to the 10, jack and king. Parioli +50 and 5 Imps to trail by only 13.

1 Imp to Bamberg on board 6 and then:

**Board: 7. Dealer South/All**

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

**Open Room**

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

Bocchi could not resist temptation and raised to 2♠. Versace jumped to game, of course, only to find out that there was no way to make the contract. De Lombard +100.

**Closed Room**

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

Disciplined bidding here for a sensible contract and +140 more or 6 Imps to De Lombard.

Their lead now stood at 10.

Mainly the same happened in the Parioli match when Lauria raised whereas the Germans, helped by their Strong Club, easily stayed far away from game.

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>

1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass  
 3♣ Pass 3♠ Pass  
 4♣ All pass

Bamberg +100.


**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Nunes</i>

1♣ Pass 1♦ Dble  
 1♠ 2♦ Pass  
 2♠ All pass

Bamberg +140 for 6 Imps and a lead of 20 now.

**Board: 8. Dealer West/None**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>

1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass  
 2♣ Pass 2♥ All pass

1♥ showed spades. When neither opponent interfered, Allegra had stolen a partscore from them. On a trump lead, the contract was made with an overtrick, Allegra +140.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>


1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass  
 1NT Pass 2♥ Pass  
 Pass Dbl Pass 2NT  
 Pass 3♦ Pass 4♦  
 4♥ Pass Pass Dbl  
 All pass

When Madala reopened, the Argentitalians duly reached their rightful partscore. When the Dutch still bid one more, they had to pay the penalty for that as Ferraro had a free and easy double, knowing they already had sold out to 2♥.

Down two, +300 to Allegra and 10 Imps to level the match with four boards to play!

The Dutch struck back on the next board:

**Board: 9. Dealer North/EW**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>

3♥ Pass 4♥  
 4♠ Pass 6♠ All pass

Look at the auction in the Closed Room and you will easily see what went wrong here. Down two, De Lombard +200.

**Closed Room**


West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>

3♥ Pass 4♣  
 Pass 4♥ Dbl Pass  
 4♠ All pass

Brink's patience paid off here. Just made, De Lombard +620 for (a lead of) 13 Imps now with only three to play.

But then:

**Board: 10. Dealer East/All**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	1♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All pass

Bocchi did very well here to pass 1♦ as he could now come from behind with an unexpected double of 2NT. On a diamond lead to the jack and a club shift declarer could manage only six tricks for a loss of 500 points.

**Closed Room**

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

The raise to 3♥ was just too much as there was no way to come to all nine tricks required. Still, Allegra only -100 and 9 Imps back to trail by 4 with two to play. In the Parioli match, they had the same partscore problem at both tables:

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>
		Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
All pass			

Just made, Bamberg +110.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
		Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	All pass	

Once again, the Italian North raised his partner for one down. Bamberg +100 and 5 Imps to lead by 25 with two to play. Very much happened at both tables on these last two boards, so here they are in full:

**Board: 11. Dealer South/None**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>
			INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♠	All pass	

Once the lead of the ♠J went to the queen and king, declarer could not go wrong any more as hearts were 3-3 and the ♦Q also would have behaved if needed. De Lombard +980.

**Closed Room**

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

The same 12 tricks but not the same score after this careful bidding. Allegra +480 but 11 Imps to The Lombard who led by 15 again with just one board left. They virtually had made it! In the other match, the Germans missed the slam so Parioli came a lot closer:

**Open Room**

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

Twelve tricks, Bamberg +490.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
			INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♠	All pass	

Twelve tricks, Parioli +980 and 10 Imps to trail by

15 too with one board left! This should see Bamberg through as well...

On the last board, we saw sizeable swings in both matches again...

**Board: 12. Dealer West/NS**

<p>♠ Q 6 3 ♥ K Q 7 6 ♦ A J 2 ♣ 9 8 5</p>	<p>♠ A J 10 8 7 ♥ A 9 5 3 ♦ 3 ♣ Q 4 2</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 10px auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: black; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">N</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">W</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">E</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">S</div> </div> </div> <p>♠ K 9 4 2 ♥ J 4 ♦ 10 8 7 6 ♣ 10 6 3</p>	<p>♠ 5 ♥ 10 8 2 ♦ K Q 9 5 4 ♣ A K J 7</p>	
--	---	---	--

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>
INT	2♣	3♠	Dbf
Pass	Pass	4♦	All pass

2♣ was Landy for majors and 3♠ a splinter.

South led a spade to North's ten. When North shifted to a heart instead of continuing spades, Bocchi had to problem in coming to 11 tricks, losing only to the ♥A after drawing trumps. A forcing defence would just have saved the overtrick...

Allegra +150 which looked a good result, but...

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
INT	2♣	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All pass

The same Landy and splinter here, but a different contract.

As Ferraro had not doubled 3♠, Madala could not possibly find the lead of a low spade so he led the ♥A. This immediately solved declarer's problems: twelve (!) tricks when the trumps behaved really well. De Lombard +420 for 7 Imps and a final margin of 22. Well done, even more so if one realises they were 40 down at half time. They thus had

won by a margin of 62 over the last 24 boards, a very good performance and a morale boost for the final too!

In the Parioli match, the swing went "the other way:"

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>
1♣	1♠	2♥	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	5♦	All pass

This is an excellent contract but the 4-1 trump break should wreck it, as we already saw. When North led the ♠A and shifted to a club instead of continuing the suit (South had contributed the ♠2) Versace could win the ace, drive out the ♥A and take the club finesse before drawing trumps. Just made, Parioli +400.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
1♦	1♠	Dble	3♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
4♥	All pass		

Dummy must have been disappointing for Elinescu with only three hearts...

On a spade lead and continuation, declarer ruffed in dummy and led a heart to the king which held the trick. As South had contributed the jack, declarer played on diamonds, North ruffing and returning another spade for dummy to ruff.

As North had to come to two trump tricks from this point, the contract was one down. Parioli +50 and 10 Imps to them to reduce the Bamberg margin to just 5 Imps.

The final score in this match: 115-110 to Bamberg. As an Italian put it: had the segment consisted of 13 boards, it might have been enough...

So just before eight o'clock on Saturday night, the smoke had eventually cleared and Bamberg too had performed the unusual feat of beating some of the best Italians, in their home town! Maybe this win was an even greater thrill to them than its consequence: reaching the final.

<b>Final</b>	<b>European Champions Cup Final, segment 1</b>
<b>Segment 1</b>	by Jos Jacobs

Maybe, a few kibitzers living outside the European time zones were surprised a little this morning when they switched their computers on, only to find out there would not be any Italian team to watch in today's final. Of course, we all here knew that De Lombard would play the final against Bamberg Bridge Club: The Netherlands v. Germany, well-known rivals in a few other sports.

From what we saw yesterday, a slow match was odds-on. As I heard someone saying early in the morning: "Let's hope play is finished before the Victory Banquet starts..."

The first goal of the match was scored by De Lombard, in the 23<sup>rd</sup> minute, to be exact:

**Board: 1. Dealer North/None**

♠ A K 7 ♥ Q 9 8 6 4 ♦ J ♣ J 9 6 2	♠ 10 9 6 3 ♥ A 3 2 ♦ K 10 6 5 4 ♣ 5	<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">N</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">W</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">S</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">E</span> </div> ♠ Q J 8 5 2 ♥ -- ♦ A Q 9 7 3 ♣ K 10 4	♠ 4 ♥ K J 10 7 5 ♦ 8 2 ♣ A Q 8 7 3
--	--	--	---

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Gotard</i>
	Pass	1♠	2♠
4♠	4NT	Dbl	5♣
Dbl	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All pass		

This clearly was not the right moment for North to take action. As an Italian commentator put it: "Whoever is going to declare this hand will get penalised."

Right he was: a mere 23 minutes later (!) the contract had gone down four. Spade lead overtaken and diamond switch made that inevitable enough. De Lombard +800.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Muller</i>
	Pass	1♠	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All pass		

Muller did not consider his hand worth a two-suited overcall and he too was right. With no game on, probably, Kirmse could do little else than venture a double. Here too spade lead and diamond switch but when East did not continue diamonds the contract just went one off for +100 to Bamberg and a loss of 12 Imps to them.

Bamberg took the lead when the Dutch missed a slam on board 4:

**Board: 4. Dealer West/All**

♠ K 9 8 7 5 ♥ 4 ♦ 9 8 7 4 ♣ J 7 4	♠ A Q 10 4 3 ♥ Q J 2 ♦ A 2 ♣ A 8 5	<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">N</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">W</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">S</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">E</span> </div> ♠ J 6 2 ♥ K 9 8 6 3 ♦ Q 6 3 ♣ 10 9	♠ -- ♥ A 10 7 5 ♦ K J 10 5 ♣ K Q 6 3 2
--	---	---	---

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Gotard</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	6♣
All pass			

The play was very easy when West led his singleton heart, covered all round. Bamberg +1390.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Muller</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	2♥(1)
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All pass	

2♥ showed shortness in a major, so we can at least understand North's lack of interest...  
De Lombard +720 for a loss of 12 Imps.  
A game swing on the next board:

**Board: 5. Dealer North/NS**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Gotard</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass

Declarer needed some luck but he duly found it. North led his spade which Westra won with the ace, but North also was the one defender who had to win the first trump trick. When North returned a trump rather than a diamond (to break the entry position) there were two spade discards available for declarer with the help of a flying diamond finesse.

De Lombard a not unlucky +420.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Muller</i>
	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass

Now look at what happened here. With no opening bid to guide him, declarer elected to duck the spade lead which he could not read as a sure singleton. This was an unlucky shot as North was able to ruff the ♠A away (the infamous "Jubilation Coup") on the continuation of the suit. This ruff, be it with a sure trump trick, also unblocked the communications for the defence.

De Wijs returned a diamond which ran to the jack. Even if declarer now plays the ♣A and runs the jack, he cannot make his contract as there is no quick entry to dummy.

One down, De Lombard +50 and 10 Imps.

**Board: 6. Dealer East/EW**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Gotard</i>
		Pass	1♣
Dbl	1♦(1)	2♣	Pass
2♠	3♣	4♠	5♣
Dbl	All pass		

1♦ showed hearts. On a spade lead, a diamond disappeared in dummy so the overtrick was quickly there, one assumes...Bamberg +650.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Muller</i>
		Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	5♣	All pass	

Sane contract and result, but no special message by West as at the other table. So De Lombard just chalked up +420 and lost 6 Imps.

**Board: 8. Dealer West/None**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Gotard</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Dbl	4♦	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All pass	

With the trumps 3-1 declarer just could not manage the hand and had to go one down. Bamberg +100.


**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Muller</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	Pass
3♣	4♥	5♣	Dbl
5♦	Pass	Pass	5♥
All pass			

Basically, the Dutch did well to go on to 5♥ but good defence by the Germans beat the contract. ♦A lead on which East played the nine and a spade switch. Club to the ace and another spade ruff meant down two, another +100 for Bamberg and 5 Imps to regain the lead: 24-22.

Next, the Dutch struck two big blows in succession:

**Board: 9. Dealer North/EW**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Gotard</i>
	2♠	2NT	Pass
3NT	All pass		

South led the ♠Q, overtaken by North and ducked by declarer. Now, as long as declarer can concede a club trick to South who also has to hold the ♦A, the contract is safe. In view of this, North took his best chance by not continuing spades but shifting to a diamond. South won the ace and returned the suit, but Ramondt won in hand and now could play ♣K and a club to the ten. Nine tricks, De Lombard a fine +600.

**Closed Room**


West	North	East	South
<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Muller</i>
	2♦	2♥	All pass

Not the most ambitious of contracts but why should West bid 3♣?

Just made, +110 to Bamberg but 10 Imps to De Lombard.

Then:

**Board: 10. Dealer East/All**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Gotard</i>
1♥	Dbl	1♣	Pass
Dbl	All pass		

This certainly was the wrong moment for North to intervene as was proved by the Dutch in defence. The ♥10 was led to the queen and king and a spade went to the queen and ace. Back came a heart to west's nine and Westra then switched to the ♦Q which held the trick. Next came the ♣A and another. East also cashed the other top club and played a spade to put the contract three down for +800 to De Lombard, as declarer could never get to his hand any more. This would be a gain even if 3NT made...

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Muller</i>
		INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All pass		

3♥ showed 3-2-4-4.

South led a club to West's ♣A and declarer next advanced the ♦10 won by North's king. A club came back for declarer's king and a diamond to the queen in dummy held the trick. Next came a heart to the queen and king. South now played a spade to the jack and declarer's ace, taking out the last entry to his hand. So declarer had to rely on the hearts now: he cashed the ♣Q and played a heart to the ten successfully. When the hearts failed to break he had to concede down two. De Lombard another +200 and 14 imps to lead by 22.

On the next board, the system made the difference:

**Board: 11. Dealer South/None**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Gotard</i>
Pass	Pass	Dbf	2♦ All pass

Well, on a club lead and a diamond switch (or even on a trump lead) this might have been a different story but West led a heart. Dummy won and declarer went on to cash the ♠A and ruff a spade. Next came the ♥K and a heart, declarer throwing a club. A trump now went to West's king but declarer could ruff the club return, cash the ♦A and exit in spades. In the end, West would have to ruff one of East's winners (or losers) and lead into declarer's ♦J9.

Well played for a fully deserved +180 to Bamberg.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Muller</i>
All pass			2♠

This time, the major-minor twosuit opening bid led to the wrong contract. Muller quietly went two down but his -100 added up to the -180 at the other table and thus reduced De Lombard's lead to 46-31 or 15 imps at the end of an exciting first segment

<b>Final</b>	<b>European Champions Cup Final, segment 2</b>	by Jos Jacobs
<b>Segment 2</b>		

About a quarter of an hour behind schedule, all was set for the second segment to start. De Lombard were carrying forward a lead of 15 imps into this segment but they soon discovered that the going this time was very heavy indeed for them.

Take for example board 2. This was one of many boards about which can only be said that all small bits count too.



**Board: 2. Dealer East/NS**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
2NT	Dbf	2♦ 3♦	Pass All pass


Piekarek could open his hand as a two-suiter so the Germans easily reached their best denomination. On a trump lead, declarer will get home by means of an immediate spade finesse. On the actual heart lead, dummy won the ace and declarer next led a spade. When North went up with the ace to return a trump, it did not matter any more. Just made. Bamberg +110.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
		2♥	All pass

Drijver's 2♥ showed either five spades or six hearts. Not seeing a clear alternative, Brink resigned so Drijver had to languish in his semi-involuntary contract. On the lead of the ♦A and another he managed six tricks for down two, Bamberg another +100 and 5 Imps. The next board:

**Board: 3. Dealer South/EW**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
1♥	1♠	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	4NT	Pass	5♦
Dbl	All pass		

EW have a nice pair of mirror hands so 4♥ has no chance, almost no matter what the defence does. Green v. red, however, the save is understandable and proper, as it costs only 300.

Still, another good result for the Germans.


**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
1♠	Pass	2♥	All pass

Once again, we saw the Canapé overcalls in action. In spite of his tremendous fit, Drijver did not get over-enthusiastic so the Dutch registered a quiet +140 to lose 4 more Imps.

Over now to the more serious stuff. With the score at 48-43 to De Lombard, this was board 9:

**Board: 9. Dealer North/EW**

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

**Open Room**

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

3NT is clearly superior here, as a club lead sets this contract. How on earth could East ever find it? De Lombard +400.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All pass		

If this double by Brink at all conveyed the message of a possible club lead (dummy's first "suit") it was not picked up by Drijver anyway. On the same

“obvious” ♠K lead as at the other table there were no problems in the play so Bamberg soon wrote +550 in the “plus” column. This swing of 4 Imps brought them at 1 Imp behind their opponents.

The Germans took the lead on the next board, when they played the normal contract from the easier side of the table:

**Board: 10. Dealer East/All**

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

**Open Room**

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

What’s the problem, one would say? You lead the ♥A or ♥K as East, have a close look at the count your partner gives you and thus cash the other heart before exiting with your singleton trump. If partner really holds the required fast or semi-fast trump trick you will get your ruff and that’s it. Mission accomplished easily enough by the Bamberg defenders for +100 to them.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
3♥	Dbl	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All pass	

Well, the difference was that South was the declarer here. West led the ♥J but East did not have any idea of the count so he overtook the jack and immediately led his club.

Now, declarer could pitch his losing heart on a diamond before drawing trumps and making his contract. Bamberg +620 for 12 Imps and the lead by 11.

A small swing on board 12 ended the segment and again Bamberg were at the receiving end:

**Board: 12. Dealer West/NS**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
Pass	1♦	Dbl	Redbl
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Dbl	Pass	Pass	3NT
All pass			

Nice defence: club lead by West to East’s queen, followed by the ♠Q and another. This made life extremely easy for West: he won the ♠10, cashed the ♠A and led his remaining club for a quick one down. Bamberg +100.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
Pass	1♦	Dbl	Redbl
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Redbl	Pass
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	INT	All pass	

On a heart lead or heart switch, 1♠ would not have been a great success, I think. Still nothing was wrong with the actual final contract so Bamberg added another +120 to the +100 from the other table for a swing of 6 more Imps. The score after two segments: 65-48 to them. They had in fact won the segment 34-2.

<b>Final</b>	<b>European Champions Cup Final, segment 3</b>
<b>Segment 3</b>	by Jos Jacobs

Bamberg went into this segment with an already useful lead of 17 and they were to increase it soon when they once again judged the situation slightly better than their opponents:

**Board: 1. Dealer North/None**

<p>♠ A Q 8 6 4 ♥ -- ♦ Q 10 7 4 3 2 ♣ J 5</p>	<p>♠ 10 5 3 2 ♥ A K 6 2 ♦ J 9 ♣ K 6 4</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="font-size: 8px;">N</span>  <span style="font-size: 8px;">W</span>  <span style="font-size: 8px;">S</span>  <span style="font-size: 8px;">E</span> </div>	<p>♠ K 7 ♥ 9 7 4 3 ♦ K 8 6 ♣ Q 10 9 2</p>
<p>♠ J 9 ♥ Q J 10 8 5 ♦ A 5 ♣ A 8 7 3</p>		

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Muller</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♥	4♥	All pass	

The final contract was right on par, as EW can make 4♦. One down, Bamberg +50.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	Dbf	4♥
5♦	Dbf	All pass	

At the other table too, the par contract was reached in due course but Westra, in view of his partner's negative double, had every reason to introduce his second suit. He found a suitable dummy but the contract was lacking a few top tricks. One down too, Bamberg +100 and 4 more Imps.

After this quiet enough start, things became even more quiet until we arrived at the middle of the set:

**Board: 5. Dealer North/NS**

<p>♠ 10 ♥ K Q 4 ♦ A Q 7 5 3 ♣ K 10 4 2</p>	<p>♠ A Q 9 6 ♥ 3 ♦ K 8 ♣ A Q 9 7 5 3</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="font-size: 8px;">N</span>  <span style="font-size: 8px;">W</span>  <span style="font-size: 8px;">S</span>  <span style="font-size: 8px;">E</span> </div>	<p>♠ J 8 5 4 3 2 ♥ A J 10 8 ♦ J 10 4 ♣ --</p> <p>♠ K 7 ♥ 9 7 6 5 2 ♦ 9 6 2 ♣ J 8 6</p>
--	---	--

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Muller</i>
	2♣	2♠	3♣
Pass	3♦	3♥	Pass
Pass	4♣	All pass	

Piekarek's light overcall led Muller into an even lighter raise. By passing in spite of his fair hand, Gotard made it very difficult for De Wijs to adjudicate his partner's values. These tactics paid off when North bid one more. East led a spade to declarer's queen and now, trying to draw as many trumps as possible before the ruffs would come, declarer cashed the ♣A. He thus ended up two down, 200 to Bamberg.

**Closed Room**


West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
	2♣	2♠	Pass
3NT	All pass		

Compare Westra's 3NT and Gotard's pass! North led a club to the jack and king. Westra next led the ♥Q to dummy's ace and took the losing diamond finesse, but Wladow was not going to fall into the trap. The obvious reason was that he simply had no hearts left...

He duly shifted to a spade so the contract went five down (50 per trick) as the commentators had already predicted. Another 250 to Bamberg, good for 10 more Imps. Their lead: 31.

On the next board, Bamberg almost out the match out of reach for their opponents:

**Board: 6. Dealer East/EW**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Muller</i>
Pass	2♣	1♣	Dbf
Pass	4♣	Dbf	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♦
All pass		Pass	4♠

Correct bidding as a slam on a finesse is generally considered just against the odds (6-0 breaks etc. might occur). On a diamond lead Muller made all the tricks for a score of +510 to De Lombard.


**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
		1♣	Dbf
2♣	Dbf	3♣	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All pass	

Excellent tactics by Bamberg to bid a risky slam at this stage of the match as they could be pretty sure it would be bid at the other table too, in view of the state of the match.

From this tactical point of view, bidding the slam was quite wrong. The important thing, however, was that the ♠K was right! Bamberg +980 and 10 more Imps to lead by 41! It looked all over...

**Board: 7. Dealer South/All**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Muller</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♦
All pass		Pass	3NT

Would there have been a way for NS to stop safely in, for example, 3♦? We will never know... No chance on a club lead, Bamberg +100.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
			1♠
Pass	1NT	2♣	2♦
All pass			

The Germans had better ideas once again: they even managed to stop in 2♦, making it with an overtrick for a further +110 and 5 more Imps. As the last five boards did not change anything substantial, though they finally saw the Dutch getting of the mark for this segment, the segment ended with another convincing Bamberg win: 30-4. The score now stood at 95-52 with just 12 boards to play.

**A word from the Editor**

At the end of this European Champions Cup it is my great pleasure to say thank you once again to Parioli Tennis Club Roma for their great hospitality during this event. I came back here with some very happy memories of the event hosted by Parioli TC three years ago and I can only say that my high expectations did come true. Once again it has been a tremendous pleasure to be here, even more so in view of the contributions coming from the club's kitchen during the entire event.

This implies a sincere thank you to the EBL too, as they were generous enough to invite me to act as Daily Bulletin Editor here again. I happily accepted this invitation as I also knew I would get the opportunity to work here with a very competent Italian technical staff. I will only mention one name: a special thank you to Nicola Di Stefano, the layout editor, who once again did a marvellous job consisting mainly of very hard work at irregular times. Well done, Nicola!

Of course, I would never forget to thank all players here. Without their presence, an event at this bridge level is simply impossible – in which case we would not have had a Daily Bulletin at all. Thank you too, all of you; I very much hope to meet many of you again at next year's European Champions Cup. Have a safe trip home.

<b>Final</b>	<b>Today's final stages</b>
<b>Segment 4</b>	by Jos Jacobs

The 4<sup>th</sup> segment of 12 boards today not only featured the closing segment of the finals but also the play-off for the bronze between the two Italian teams. As the final looked like a sure German victory (and so it proved) I will show you some boards from the little play-off only.

The first board below features a major partscore swing resulting from different tactics:

**Board: 7. Dealer South/All**

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

In both rooms, North overcalled 1♠ over West's 1♥ and both Souths responded INT. Surprisingly enough, Versace was left to her and go down two whereas Vivaldi bid 2♦ and thus became declarer in 2♠ making. A useful 7-imp swing to Allegra. A mistimed overcall on board 10 brought Allegra a further 10 Imps, so the proceedings on board 11 did not hurt them any more:

**Board: 11. Dealer South/None**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Lauria	Madala	Versace
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	6♥	All pass	4♠

Simple and efficient as so often. Parioli +980.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Vivaldi	Angelini	Ferraro
Pass	4♦	Pass	2♣
All Pass			4♥

The NS gadget did not work here. Allegra +480 and a loss of 11 Imps.

On the last board, Allegra settled the issue convincingly:

**Board: 12. Dealer West/NS**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Lauria	Madala	Versace
2♠	Pass	3♠	All pass

When neither North nor South took action, there it rested for one down. Parioli +50.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Vivaldi	Angelini	Ferraro
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbf
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dbf	All pass

The ♠J was led to East's ace and a spade came back. No problems as two diamonds could go on the top clubs in dummy. Allegra a fine +790 to end the event in a blaze of glory and with the bronze medal!