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ANOTHER PHOTO-FINISH



Our fantastic group of BBO operators

At the end of the Round Robin, the top two teams are still the same as last night: GS Allegra and Bamberger Reiter. These two teams already were certain to qualify for the Semifinals A before the last round started, so in their respective final matches they only played for the right to choose an opponent. As we all know, this right is not always an advantage but it was duly won by the holders, who thus succeeded in winning the round robin after being

the overnight leaders as well.

Lower down the table, a more interesting last-round battle was going on, as Norway's Heimdal BK had reached 4th place before the last round started, passing the Poles. The Norwegians would have to face 3rd-placed Schaltz so anything might happen. The winner of this Norway-Denmark clash was likely to make it but the Poles would need a decent score to get back into the top four.

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RESULTS

ROUND 7

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	BAMBERGER REITER GER	G.S.ALLEGRA ITA	19 - 7	14 - 6
2	RUCH SA WROCLAW POL	MONACO FMB	8 - 11	8.86 - 11.14
3	ALLFREY ENG	BAREKET ISR	35 - 21	14.54 - 5.46
4	BK LAVEC SMILE SWE	HEIMDAL BK NOR	11 - 9	10.77 - 9.23
5	TITAN BUL	ASD PESCARA BRIDGE ITA	31 - 10	16.18 - 3.82
6	SCHALTZ DEN	ZALESKI FRA	16 - 51	1.42 - 18.58

ROUND 8

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	RUCH SA WROCLAW POL	BK LAVEC SMILE SWE	28 - 16	14 - 6
2	MONACO FMB	ZALESKI FRA	18 - 6	14 - 6
3	G.S.ALLEGRA ITA	BAREKET ISR	24 - 9	14.8 - 5.2
4	ASD PESCARA BRIDGE ITA	HEIMDAL BK NOR	4 - 10	7.82 - 12.18
5	TITAN BUL	BAMBERGER REITER GER	10 - 51	0.67 - 19.33
6	ALLFREY ENG	SCHALTZ DEN	20 - 31	6.28 - 13.72

ROUND 9

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	BAMBERGER REITER GER	ZALESKI FRA	29 - 26	11.14 - 8.86
2	RUCH SA WROCLAW POL	G.S.ALLEGRA ITA	1 - 27	2.84 - 17.16
3	BAREKET ISR	MONACO FMB	22 - 14	12.83 - 7.17
4	ALLFREY ENG	ASD PESCARA BRIDGE ITA	22 - 12	13.43 - 6.57
5	TITAN BUL	HEIMDAL BK NOR	14 - 33	4.25 - 15.75
6	BK LAVEC SMILE SWE	SCHALTZ DEN	8 - 14	7.82 - 12.18

ROUND 10

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	G.S.ALLEGRA ITA	ALLFREY ENG	26 - 15	13.72 - 6.28
2	SCHALTZ DEN	BAMBERGER REITER GER	19 - 11	12.83 - 7.17
3	ZALESKI FRA	TITAN BUL	13 - 16	8.86 - 11.14
4	HEIMDAL BK NOR	RUCH SA WROCLAW POL	16 - 15	10.39 - 9.61
5	BK LAVEC SMILE SWE	BAREKET ISR	13 - 32	4.25 - 15.75
6	ASD PESCARA BRIDGE ITA	MONACO FMB	18 - 14	11.5 - 8.5

ROUND 11

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1 MONACO FMB	TITAN BUL	45 - 21	16.78 - 3.22
2 HEIMDAL BK NOR	SCHALTZ DEN	7 - 18	6.28 - 13.72
3 G.S.ALLEGRA ITA	BK LAVEC SMILE SWE	26 - 2	16.78 - 3.22
4 ASD PESCARA BRIDGE ITA	BAMBERGER REITER GER	18 - 31	5.72 - 14.28
5 ALLFREY ENG	RUCH SA WROCLAW POL	15 - 8	12.51 - 7.49
6 ZALESKI FRA	BAREKET ISR	21 - 16	11.85 - 8.15

RANKING

1	G.S.ALLEGRA ITA	147.1
2	BAMBERGER REITER GER	144.33
3	SCHALTZ DEN	125.38
4	ZALESKI FRA	112.07
5	RUCH SA WROCLAW POL	111.56
6	HEIMDAL BK NOR	111.12
7	MONACO FMB	110.75
8	ALLFREY ENG	105.8
9	BAREKET ISR	102.59
10	TITAN BUL	90.15
11	BK LAVEC SMILE SWE	83.11
12	ASD PESCARA BRIDGE ITA	76.04

SEMIFINAL

G.S.ALLEGRA ITA	4.5
ZALESKI FRA	0
BAMBERGER REITER GER	0
SCHALTZ DEN	2.67
RUCH SA WROCLAW POL	0
ALLFREY ENG	2.33
HEIMDAL BK NOR	3
MONACO FMB	0
BAREKET ISR	6.5
ASD PESCARA BRIDGE ITA	0
TITAN BUL	0
BK LAVEC SMILE SWE	3.33

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As the final round developed, it turned out that one or two factors had been overlooked a little, namely the outside chance of a Monaco revival but also, far less unlikely, the chance of a decent Zaleski victory in combination with some other close results. The Monegasques were playing Bulgaria's Titan and were leading 38-5 with two boards to go – a lead that would eventually have been big enough to see them through after all. However, on the penultimate board they were struck by disaster, conceding a penalty of no less than 1,400 at one table to lose 16 IMPs. Even then, they were still in contention, as anything could still happen in any of the other matches.

We had to wait until the last board of the Zaleski-Ruch AZS match, which happened to be the very last board of

the entire Round Robin as well, before the smoke finally cleared. As the French had succeeded in making a vulnerable game that had been defeated most of the time, their 13-IMP swing was just enough to see them pass all other contenders for 4th place, albeit with only 0,51 V.P. to spare.

As Schaltz easily won their match v. Norway's Heimdal BK, Schaltz stayed in 3rd place and Heimdal was out. Ruch AZS's defeat at the hands of Allfrey did neither team any good, the Poles failing by just 2 IMPs to make it. In spite of Monaco's rally, they finished in 7th place overall, just 0,75 V.P. over average.

With the field split into three groups now, we will continue play today with the semifinals and the finals.

QUALIFICATION

Round 7

In Friday morning's opening round, the two leading teams, GS Allegra and Bamberger Reiter, were scheduled to meet. This should have been an interesting clash but at the beginning, the boards did not cooperate enough to produce any really exciting stuff.

On board 5, both teams had their first chance to register a big swing:

Board 5. Dealer North. N-S Vulnerable.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Zanasi</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
	1♠	Pass	3♦
4♣	4♦	5♣	Pass
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

3♦ was invitational with four spades. Who should have doubled 5♣? South or North?

One off, +100 to Allegra.

Closed Room

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

2NT was an invitational raise as well. As it happened, Madala had the wrong cards to go on to 5♠.

One off, no swing.

In the Allfrey v. Bareket match, the English did much better at both tables.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Zack</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
	1♠	Pass	3♠
4♣	4♠	All Pass	

In the Open Room, they were allowed to play 4♠ for +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Robson</i>	<i>O.Herbst</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>I.Herbst</i>
	1♠	Pass	3♣
5♣	5♠	All Pass	

In the Closed Room, they duly found the good save for at least an 8-IMP gain which went up to 12 when NS bid on.

Micke Melander from Sweden came to the Bulletin office with a wonderful Peter Fredin story on this same board.

Lavec Smile v. Heimdal

West	North	East	South
<i>Grøtheim</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Mollberg</i>	<i>Røn</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♠
3♣	3♥	Pass	4♠
5♣	5♠	All Pass	

At first sight, 5♠ looks destined to go one down, as happened at so many other tables. However, Fredin realised that West would probably have tried 3NT rather than his club bids, had he been looking at the ♠K doubleton as well. As a consequence, the ♠K had to be doubleton with East, in which case the only possible way to avoid losing a trump trick was to sneak a low spade past East.

So Fredin decided to quickly present the ♠J at trick 3, after losing a club and winning the ♦K shift with his ace. Mollberg ducked this...and Fredin had 12 tricks to win just 1 IMP for his team. At the other table, NS had been allowed to play in 4♠...

Mollberg's problem, of course, was that Fredin might as well hold a singleton diamond and be missing the ♠AK...but there was more to this hand, as we will see from what happened on the previous board at their table:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vulnerable.

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

Fredin had become declarer in 3♦ after opening 1♦ and a take-out double by Mollberg, a good friend of his. So Fredin knew that the ♣Q would be with East and thus, that his only chance to avoid a club loser would be to immediately

QUALIFICATION


Round 9

Only a quick look at the standings after Round 8 was enough to find out that at least three vital matches were scheduled for Round 9. The leaders Bamberger Reiter would play 5th-ranked Zaleski and GS Allegra v. Ruch AZS Wrocław would be the match between the numbers two and three from the current standings. Besides, it could be said that if Monaco would have any chance of qualifying after all, they would have to make a giant step forward in their match v. Bareket.

Below, you will therefore find highlights from all these three matches.

On the second board of the set, the French made their intentions clear.

Board 22. Dealer East. E-W Vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Zaleski</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
		2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Once Zaleski showed a good suit in his weak two, Cronier had little trouble in announcing the decent enough slam. Zaleski +1440 on a neutral diamond lead.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Häusler</i>	<i>Pilon</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>Toffier</i>
		2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

The Germans were less optimistic about the suit quality and thus stayed away from the slam, losing 13 IMPs in the process.

Some quiet boards (in all three matches) followed but in the second half of the set, things began to happen everywhere. This was board 26:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Zaleski</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
		Pass	1♥
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Dbf	Redbl	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

In Bamberger Reiter v. Zaleski, when Piekarek opted for the major suit game rather than 5♦, Smirnov had a lot of work to do but on a spade lead and continuation, all was well when he first correctly guessed the trumps and then saw all of them coming down in the third round of the suit.. He could even afford the ♣K to be wrong. One overtrick. +650 to the Germans.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Häusler</i>	<i>Pilon</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>Toffier</i>
		Pass	1♥
Pass	INT	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

A typical constructive auction with both North and South holding something in reserve. Two overtricks, +150 to Zaleski but 11 IMPs back to the Reiter.

The same problem occurred, of course, in the Ruch AZS v. GS Allegra match. Here, we saw two completely different NS auctions:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
		Pass	1♥
1♠	Dbf	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Playing in 3♥ only, Dubinin threw two clubs in the 2nd and 3rd round of spades, this way ensuring his nine tricks. Ruch AZS +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gawrys	Bianchedi	Klukowski	Duboin
Pass	INT	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	3♠
All Pass		Pass	5♦

The Italians, on the other hand, showed the proper way to the best contract. Allegra +600 and a well-deserved 10 IMPs.

Two boards later, the popular contract was 3NT in EW, reached at all 12 tables but defeated only twice.

Board 28. Dealer West. N-S Vulnerable.

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

♠ A Q 10 7 5
♥ 9 6 5
♦ 6
♣ Q J 6 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Cronier	Piekarek	Zaleski	Smirnov
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

On this auction, Smirnov had no reason to lead anything but a spade. Zaleski +460.

In the replay, the auction took a quite different course:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Häusler	Pilon	Kirmse	Toffier
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Dbf	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

On this more revealing auction, Toffier knew that action was needed. His ♣Q lead hit the jackpot as it enabled the defenders to cash four clubs and three spades, dummy's ♠8xxx being a useful secondary stopper. Zaleski another +150 and 12 IMPs back.

On exactly the same revealing auction, Nunes also led the ♣Q against 3NT, thus scoring 12 IMPs for the Monaco team as well. At the other table, Helness-Helgemo had scored an easy enough +460 by bidding the classic INT – 3NT.

A wide range of results we saw on the next board:

Board: 29. Dir: North/All

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Cronier	Piekarek	Zaleski	Smirnov
Pass	Pass	2♦	3♣
All Pass			

In Bamberger Reiter v. Zaleski, East's 2♦ had shown a balanced 18-19 so when West did not speak over 3♣, East understandably thought he had done his job. One over-trick, +130 to the Germans.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Häusler	Pilon	Kirmse	Toffier
Pass	Pass	1♦	4♣
4♥	All Pass	Dbf	Pass

At the other table, we saw an exemplary auction by the Germans. 4♥ was just made for +620 and 13 IMPs to the Reiter when the defence never touched spades. On the actual club lead, declarer could drive out the ♥A, ruff the club continuation, draw trumps and cash his diamond tricks before exiting in spades, leaving the defence helpless. A low spade from North after winning the ♥A would still have worked, of course.

Two other spectacular results at both tables of the Monaco v. Bareket match:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	O.Herbst	Helness	I.Herbst
Pass	Pass	1♦	5♣
5♦	Dbf	Dbf	Pass
	All Pass		

Heart to the ace, heart ruff, ♠K, ♠A and another ruff quickly put this contract down three. Bareket +800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bareket	Fantoni	Lengy	Nunes
Pass	Pass	1♦	4♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
4♥	5♣	Dbl	All Pass

When Bareket led a diamond, this contract was one down from the top. Bareket another +200 and a juicy 14-IMP swing to win the match 12.83 – 7.17 V.P.

In the Ruch AZS – Allegra match, they reached the two contracts we also have seen above. Still, the results here were vastly different:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Gromov	Bocchi	Dubiniv
Pass	Pass	2♣	3♣
Dbl	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Gromov, too, led a club against 4♥ but when he continued the ♠2 after winning his ♥A, he could chalk up +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gawrys	Bianchedi	Klukowski	Duboin
Pass	Pass	1♣	4♣
Pass	5♣	Dbl	All Pass

With nothing to guide him, Gawrys tried a low spade against Duboin's 5♣ doubled, only to find out that he'd just given away the contract. Spade to the queen and king, ♠J overtaken by dummy's ace and ♠10 for a diamond discard. When this held, Duboin was home. GS Allegra +750 and 12 IMPs to them to win the match 17.16 – 2.84 V.P.



Qualification - Round 10

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vulnerable.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Robson	Bianchedi	Allfrey	Duboin
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Dbl	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Allfrey led a club which ran to declarer's ace. Bianchedi next ran the ♦10 successfully, in view of the bidding. Allegra+630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Di Franco	Forrester	Zanasi	Gold
Pass	1♦	Pass	INT
2♦	Pass	2♥	Dbl
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

South's INT showed 5+ spades. West then could bid 2♦ to show his hand and also make it difficult for NS to assess their diamond fit. Ten tricks for +130 to Allfrey but 10 IMPs to GS Allegra. There was also a big swing in the Schaltz v. Bamberger Reiter match:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Häusler	Bruun	Kirmse	K. Blakset
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
INT	Pass	2♥	3♣
Dbl	3NT	All pass	

Heart lead, diamond finesse through East and ten tricks. Schaltz +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Schaltz	Gromöller	Blakset	Fritsche
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
INT	Pass	2♣	Dbl
All Pass			

When the defence started off with three rounds of trumps, declarer easily escaped for just one down. Reiter +200 but 10 IMPs to Schaltz.