

sive when the Danish declarer went down in rather similar fashion for a 12-IMP loss from which the Schaltz team never recovered on the remaining mostly rather flat boards.

Two boards later in the GS Allegra v. Zaleski match, we saw an unusual NS misunderstanding on what was about the only not so flat boards of the latter part of the set.

Board 25. Dealer North. E-W Vulnerable.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
T.Bessis	Bianchedi	M.Bessis	Duboin
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dbl	4♠	5♣	All Pass

Duboin led the ♥A on which Bianchedi contributed the seven. A diamond shift then put the contract one down when Bianchedi could ruff this. Allegra +100.

In the replay, Cronier found an original way to show his major two-suiter when Madala crowded the auction with his immediate raise to the five-level.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Cronier	Bocchi	Zaleski
	Pass	3♣	Pass
5♣	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Redbl	All Pass	

Wouldn't you as South have become a little suspicious holding two aces, a king and five trumps opposite partner's voluntary redouble? No doubt, an auction like this never occurred before but the resulting score after South's Pass was a well-known telephone number in journalists' circles. Down seven, Allegra +3,400 and in the lead again with this 23-IMP swing.

Mind you, had South been declaring 5♥, only the lead of the ♠A and another would beat it for sure, as East can ruff with his lone trump. If declarer cashes just North's top trump and plays on spades, he will get home...

In this match, too, a series of flat boards was to follow. It would thus be GS Allegra, the holders, against the Bamberger Reiter, Germany's representative, in the final.

FINAL

Round I



G.S. ALLEGRA

v

BAMBERGER



At 15.30 hrs. local time this Saturday, while the torrential rain was still pouring down, the two teams who finished top of the Round Robin over the previous two days sat down to fight it out for the title.

The Germans (Bamberger Reiter, using the Bavarian city of Bamberg's symbol as their team name) started the match with a carry-over of 4 IMPs because they had won the direct match with GS Allegra, the defending champions from Turin, in the Round Robin.



After a 3♣ pre-empt by dealer North at both tables made it rather difficult for EW to reach a fine slam on the opening board (the Schaltz team got to slam in the play-off for 3rd place when North did not preempt), Allegra immediately wiped out the deficit on the next board:

Board 2. Dealer East. N-S Vulnerable.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Haeusler</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Fritsche</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
2♠	Dbl	1♠	2♣
Pass	5♦	4♠	Pass
		Dbl	All Pass

This proved a fine shot. In fact, 5♦ was defeated only because declarer cannot come back to his hand twice to first ruff his last spade and then draw the outstanding trumps. When he tries to cash both of dummy's top clubs for that purpose, West will ruff. One down, +200 to the Germans

Closed Room

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

South led a top club and switched to a diamond but it did not really matter as declarer should always be able to come to at least ten tricks. Allegra +590 and 9 IMPs to grab the lead...

...only to lose it again on the next board:

Board 3. Dealer South. E-W Vulnerable.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Haeusler</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Fritsche</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
All Pass			3♠



When Duboin's 3♠ got respected all around the table, West led his singleton club. Dummy's ace was called for and a low spade went to East's ace. ♣K, club ruff with the jack, ♥A and a diamond to dummy's ace enabled declarer to finesse the ♠Q through East for his contract.

Smirnov also opened 3♠ at the other table, but rather than respect he provoked action:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
4♥	4♠	Dbl	3♠
Pass	Redbl	Pass	Pass
4NT	Dbl	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

A well-timed redouble by Piekarek made it less automatic for EW to assess the situation. When Madala ran, North's gamble had well and truly come off. Down three, +800 and 12 IMPs to the Germans. It would have been down four had declarer not gone up with the ace when North led a spade, to continue ♥A and another.

Many of the remaining boards of the set required some standard discipline and concentration from the players, I felt. Take for example board 10:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vulnerable.

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

The board drew my attention as it was no means clear, at first sight, where the 8-IMP swing had come from.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Haeusler</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Fritsche</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
		1♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	All Pass

For Bamberg, Fritsche made an unlucky start when he did not put up dummy's nine when Duboin led a diamond. It seemed as if this did not disturb him at all as he simply continued the ♠Q after winning the first trick in hand with the ♦J. North ducked the ♠Q and a club to dummy's queen and North's king came next. Bianchedi returned a diamond, of course, Duboin allowing declarer's queen to hold the trick.

Next, Fritsche played the ♡J from hand, Duboin taking his king and exiting in the suit. Fritsche could win his ace now, cash two top clubs bringing his tally to six tricks, and then endplay North by playing a heart to dummy's queen and a heart off dummy. North had to concede a spade to dummy in the end. Well read and well played for +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♡	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

In the other room, Madala played 2NT from the West hand and was treated to the friendly looking ♡10 lead. South won his king when dummy played low and led a spade which North took with the king. Back came a heart to dummy's jack and Madala's next move was a club to his queen and North's king. North persisted with hearts, dummy's ace winning. Now came a top diamond, immediately won by South who led another spade. North won his ace and, realising that declarer's hand was dead now, safely exited in clubs. Dummy could cash two top clubs and two more diamonds but then had to hand over the last two tricks to South's good club and diamond. Down two on what really looked like an innocent deal, 8 more IMPs to Bamberg who led 41-16 at halftime.

FINAL

Round 2



G.S. ALLEGRA

v

BAMBERGER



On the first of the final 16 boards of this final we saw a terrible German misunderstanding.

spade finesse but when nothing worked, he was down three. Allegra +150.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vulnerable.

	♠ 9 8 7 4		
	♡ Q 8 5		
	◇ J 9 5		
	♣ 9 6 3		
♠ 10 3		♠ A Q J 6 5 2	
♡ A K J 10 6 2		♡ 9	
◇ 10 3		◇ A 8 6	
♣ A Q 5		♣ K 10 2	
	♠ K		
	♡ 7 4 3		
	◇ K Q 7 4 2		
	♣ J 8 7 4		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hausler</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Gromoller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♡	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	All Pass

When West showed some interest in a spade contract after all, East got visions of a slam. Rightly so, as 12 tricks are cold on any lead except a diamond, whereas on a diamond lead you still have quite reasonable chances. The message was lost on West so all of a sudden, the Germans were in a precarious contract, even more so on a ♡Q lead and a diamond continuation. Gromöller did his best by winning the 3rd round of diamonds and then first cashing the two top hearts (the queen might drop) before taking the

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♡	Pass	3NT	All Pass



Against this more normal contract, South led a low diamond. East won the 3rd round of the suit and then, placing the diamond length in South, ran the ♠9. North could win his queen but declarer had the rest. Allegra +430 and 11 IMPs back, about half their deficit. The match looked open again.

On the next board, both teams missed a good non-vulnerable save against a cold vulnerable game. In fact, it would have needed correct defence or the "save" would turn into a making contract.

After this missed chance for either team, Allegra rallied twice in succession:

Board 19. Dealer South. E-W Vulnerable.

♠ J ♥ J954 ♦ KQ84 ♣ A853	♠ K1063 ♥ AK7 ♦ 5 ♣ Q9642	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q98 ♥ Q86 ♦ A109762 ♣ K
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ A7542 ♥ 1032 ♦ J3 ♣ J107											



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Haeusler</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Gromoller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥(1)
3♠	4♠	5♦	All Pass

1♥ showed spades.

Bocchi's immediate jump put his opponents under pressure. 4♠ can go down two on a heart lead but would you believe that after partner's splinter? 5♦ also went one down, Allegra +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥
1♠	2♠	3♦	3♠
Dbl	Pass	4♦	All Pass

Par was duly reached here so Allegra scored another +130 and 6 IMPs.

And the next board:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vulnerable.

♠ KQ742 ♥ K ♦ A8542 ♣ 97	♠ 103 ♥ Q987 ♦ QJ97 ♣ KQ2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J865 ♥ J10652 ♦ K10 ♣ 63
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ A9 ♥ A43 ♦ 63 ♣ AJ10854											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Haeusler</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Gromoller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1♠	Pass	2♠	2NT
Pass	3♣	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Over 2♠, Madala just had room to take action and show this type of hand (strong minor suit overcall) by bidding 2NT. In fact, 3NT is cold for NS but this might be difficult to bid. On the same lucky layout in hearts, 4♣ also rolled home. Allegra +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
1♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Bianchedi's 3♠ duly silenced everyone. Another careful+140 to Allegra and 7 IMPs.

The German lead had been cut to just 1 IMP so it might just get more and more exciting...

Not quite, as a series of flat boards was to follow on which Allegra managed to score a few more IMPs to lead by 1 when this board came up:

Board 25. Dealer North. E-W Vulnerable.

♠ A Q 9 7 ♥ A 7 ♦ A Q 8 3 ♣ A 6 5	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K 6 5 ♥ 10 8 6 2 ♦ K 4 2 ♣ 4 3 2	♠ J 8 ♥ 9 5 4 3 ♦ J 6 5 ♣ J 9 8 7
N						
W E						
S						

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Nothing exciting here, ten easy tricks. Allegra +630 on what very much looked like another flat board.

In the Open Room, Madala launched a semi-psychoic transfer bid which turned out to be very annoying for the opponents:

Open Room

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

1NT was 10-12 and 2NT showed any minor. Take it from there, with the EW cards. Consistent doubling is best but how can you know, even though it is obvious they are trying to fool you?

According to GIB, 4♠ should be makeable but at the table, finding that line is asking really too much. One down, Allegra +100 and 12 IMPs to suddenly lead by 13.

On board 27, Allegra gained another 10 IMPs by taking an immediate double heart finesse, holding AK98 opposite 10xx, rather than play a top heart first to cater for a singleton honour.

Then came a slam:

Board 28. Dealer West. N-S Vulnerable.

♠ 9 6 4 3 ♥ K 6 ♦ 8 5 3 ♣ Q 10 6 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ J 10 8 5 2 ♥ J 8 4 3 ♦ A K Q 9 ♣ -	♠ K Q 7 ♥ 9 ♦ J 10 7 4 2 ♣ A 8 7 5
N						
W E						
S						

Open Room

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

The Italians' Turbo (North showing an odd number of aces when bidding 4NT) resulted in the slam being missed as North's club void had not come to light at any time. Allegra +680.

In the other room, the Germans produced a nice auction:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

3NT showed a minor suit splinter in a weakish hand. 4♣ then asked and 4♥ confirmed a club splinter. When Smirnov next checked aces nevertheless, the splinter grew in stature as Piekarek would show his club void now. Nicely bid to reach the slam in style. +1430 and 13 IMPs back to the Germans.

It did not turn the tide for them, however, as the match had already almost run out of boards. There was far too little in the last four, so GS Allegra eventually won 68-56.