

Spingold 2019 - Final

First stanza

The two teams, Zimmerman and Team Blass, reached the final stage by rather different means: Zimmerman, the holders, annihilated all their opponents until the semifinal, where they struggled before eliminating Gautret (eventually winning by 24 IMPs), Team Blass, had a very easy round of 64 but needed to put up strong fights from then on.

It was an almost all Polish final: Team Blass included four Polish-born players, while Zimmerman lined-up with three Poles: Gawrys, Klukowski and Martens, the last one, lacking Geir Helgemo, forming an unusual partnership with Thor Helness.

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	All pass	

2 ♠ by South

Lead: ♣ K

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♥ !
Pass	2 ♠	All pass	

2 ♠ by South

Lead: ♦ 4

The match started with a push: the same 2 ♠ contract was reached in both rooms, and after the same sequence (1 ♠ -1NT-2 ♥ -2 ♠), both declarers scored eight tricks. The contract is iron clad, but Jacek Kalita did his best by finding a rather spectacular lead: the ♣ K! But apart from the excitement it gave the spectators, declarer, despite having lost trump control, could not be prevented from making four trump tricks, along with a diamond, two hearts and a heart ruff with the ♠ J.

Some Polish brilliancy in the other room too: Michal Klukowski led his doubleton diamond tabling the four (reverse count all over), which went to the nine, ten and king. Declarer went to dummy with the ♥ A and ran the ♠ J, which West ducked(!), but Klukowski won the ♠ 10 and he also tabled the ♣ K, eventually continuing with the jack. No problem: West held only three clubs, and the fall of the ♥ 10 meant declarer could always come to the requisite number of tricks.

Another push followed, once again in two spades. However, this time both EW pairs scored ten tricks, which were unassailable, so you might say that both teams missed an opportunity. However, bidding game was not at all simple.

Board 2			
East Deals		♠ 10 6	
N-S Vul		♥ A 7 6 3	
		♦ Q 9 8	
		♣ K 6 4 3	
♠ K 5 2	N	♠ Q J 8 7 4	
♥ J	W	♥ K Q 10 9 8	E
♦ A K 7 5 4	S	♦ 10 6	
♣ 10 8 7 2		♣ J	
		♠ A 9 3	
		♥ 5 4 2	
		♦ J 3 2	
		♣ A Q 9 5	
West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
		2 ♥	Pass
	2 ♠	All pass	

2 ♠ by West

Lead: ♠ 10

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
		Pass	Pass
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	All pass

1 ♠ by East

Lead: ♥ 2

In the Open Room, over 2♥ showing both majors, weak Kalita could do no better than picking spades. In the Closed, perhaps Klukowski might have bid 2♠, but after the certain Gawrys's game try he would have surely rejected the invitation.

The first swing came on Board 3, double digits to Zimmerman, though it could have gone the other way after Brink's spectacular lead.

Here are his cards: ♠8♥962♦J3♣AKQJ1064 and here is the auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
			1♣
1♠	Pass	2♣!	4♣
Pass	Pass	4♥	All pass

The amazing Dutchman rejected a dull club lead, tabling his singleton spade instead, and he was right in principle, since here is the full layout:

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
			3 NT
Pass	4♣	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	5♣	Dbl	All pass

5♣ × by North

Lead: ♥ K

After the spade lead, the defenders can prevail: North needs to play a diamond, threatening declarer's communications. Now it is no good for East to play a spade: South pitches the ♦J and immediately afterwards scores a ruff. Nor does playing a club work: South allows North to win it (mandatory), and his partner cashes the second spade honour to allow him to throw his second diamond. Curtains.

However, reasonably looking for a trump promotion, Drijver cashed the second spade immediately, and there was no rescue.

In the other room Pierre Zimmerman's decision to save worked very well, since 5♣x drifted just one off. Pepsi could have saved 3 IMPs by leading a trump, but he tabled instead the very normal ♥K, and was awake enough to follow with a trump when Kalita gave reverse count, thus avoiding the fatality of a second heart. 11 IMPs to the holders.

Board 4 was flat in 2♥: same auction, same number of tricks (8), and totally uneventful.

Board 4

West Deals ♠ Q 10 7 5 4
 Both Vul ♥ A 10 6
 ♦ A 4 2
 ♣ 7 2

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

♠ J 8
 ♥ K 8
 ♦ J 8 6 5
 ♣ K Q 10 6 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
1 NT	Pass	2♦!	Pass
2♥	All pass		

2♥ by West

Lead: ♠ 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1 NT	Pass	2♦!	Pass
2♥	All pass		

2♥ by West

Lead: ♣ 7

Board 5 saw the second swing of the match, which went in the same direction as the first, offering some excitement in bidding giving a demonstration of pretty play.

Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ J 6 5 4 3
♥ A 8
♦ Q 9 7
♣ A 8 6

♠ K 8
♥ J 10 6 3 2
♦ 10 4 3
♣ Q 9 4

W N E
S

♠ A Q 10 2
♥ 4
♦ K 5 2
♣ K 10 7 3 2

♠ 9 7
♥ K Q 9 7 5
♦ A J 8 6
♣ J 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	Pass
1 NT	All pass		

1 NT by West

Lead: ♠ 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
	Pass	2 ♣	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

4 ♥ by South

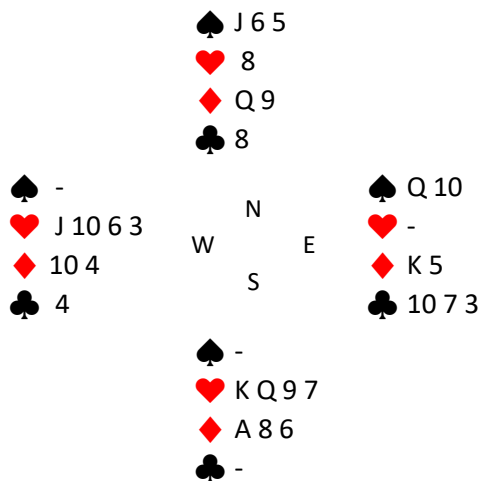
Lead: ♣ 9

Despite being a Polish combination, Pepsi and Kalita were not using Polish club, preferring a somewhat natural method, and this generated the main difference when Gawrys' systemic opening started one level higher than Pepsi's. A rather unfortunate circumstance: had Kalita-Pepsi used the same method, we would have gained some insight into Brink's and Multon's overcalling style.

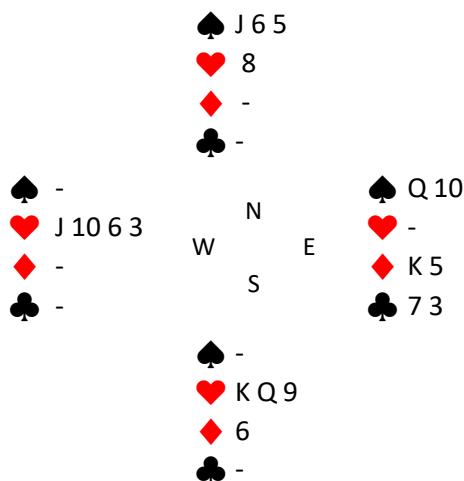
As it was, we learnt that Brink's point of view about a two-level overcall, vulnerable, facing a passed partner is quite aggressive, and that Klukowski was rather conservative when it came to the possibility of doubling the final contract, despite five good trumps and six points in front of his partner's opening bid. As for Drijver, you can hardly blame him for setting up a game forcing situation.

South ducked the ♠ 9 lead, and Gawrys won and played the ♠ A and another, won by Klukowski's king, who tabled the ♣ Q. Brink won it, finessed the ♦ J and played a heart to dummy's ace.

Here is the position:



Had Brink cashed a second heart honour he could not have escaped going down three, but the Dutchman, learning from the opponents' carding, was able to read the situation and spare an undertrick. He ruffed a club, then continued with ace and another diamond, leaving:



On the club continuation declarer pitched a diamond, and West, having ruffed, was end played. Had Gawrys played a spade, instead, Brink would have ruffed high - Klukowski needing to under ruff - and continued with the ♦ 6 toward dummy coming to the same end play situation. Nicely done.

After a spark of competition, Kalita earned the right to play in 1NT thanks to a somehow enterprising decision (rightly: 1♠ is cold), where he received the ♠ 3 lead, won by dummy's ten. A club to the queen and ace followed, and Zimmerman tabled the queen of diamonds. Reasoning that North might have chosen the diamond lead from QJx instead of a spade away from a poor holding, Kalita jumped over the first hurdle when he put up dummy's king, and over the second when he played his ten on the six tabled by Multon. However, the third hurdle - dropping the ♣ J proved to be too high: he finessed dummy's ten and went one down. Had North showed his ♥ A at some point, Kalita (who knew North must have a heart honour from his failure to lead the suit and from South's passive bid) would certainly have guessed clubs correctly: he knew North to hold

the ♠ J, the ♦ Q and the ♣ A: ♥ A and ♣ J would have given him 12 HCP: too many for a passed hand. 200 on one side and 50 on the other gave Zimmerman 6 IMPs.

Board 6
 East Deals
 E-W Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
		Pass	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♦ !	Pass
2 ♠ !	2 NT	Dbl	Pass
4 ♥	All pass		

4 ♥ by West

Lead: ♣ K

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
		Pass	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♦ !	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

4 ♥ by West

Lead: ♣ K

Board 6 was a mundane 620 apiece, but Board 7, despite being flat, was not at all dull.

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

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

♦ Q 7 3
 ♣ 5 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
			Pass
Pass	1 ♣ ¹	Pass	1 ♦ ²
Pass	1 ♥!	Pass	4 ♥
All pass			
1. 2+			
2. Hearts			

4 ♥ by North
 Lead: ♠ J

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
			1 ♥
Pass	2 ♣!	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	3 NT	All pass	

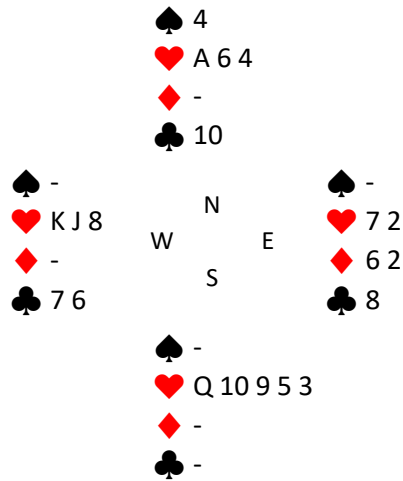
3 NT by North
 Lead: ♦ 5

In the Open Room 4 ♥ fails by top tricks: two clubs, a diamond and a heart being unescapable losers. Brink and Drijver earned the possibility to score a huge swing when they decided to bid 3NT, a contract which proved to be touch and go.

The club lead would have immediately beaten Drijver's contract, but Gawrys tabled a normal diamond, won by Klukowski's ace. West continued with a club, leaving the defence ahead, and Gawrys won and played back the suit, tabling - if BBO's record is correct - a strange looking ♣9 (the partnership's carding requires the ♣8 instead). Had Klukowski ducked it, declarer would not have had any resources, but probably deceived by his partner's card he won it, continuing with a diamond (a further club does not make any difference) and at that point, with the defensive communications cut, the only thing declarer needed to do was to play on hearts, double finessing.

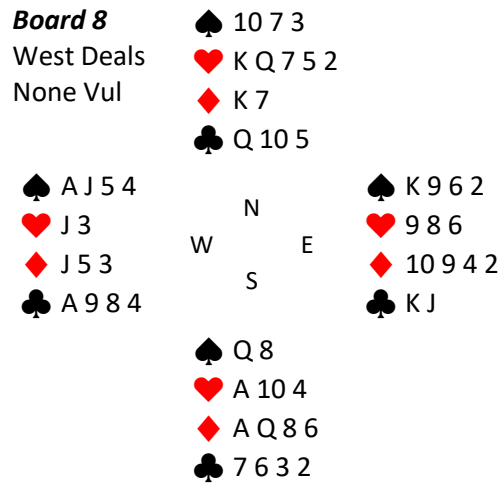
However, Drijver, decided otherwise, his reason not entirely clear. He won the diamond continuation in his own hand, and cashed a second diamond, ending in dummy (West pitching a club). At that point, with diamonds good in East, misguessing hearts was no longer possible, the winning line being automatic, but Drijver, for some reason, went for an unlikely plan and ran three rounds of spades. Down one and a flat board.

Drijver would have made his contract, had Klukowski held KJx in hearts and three spades: on the fourth heart he would have been squeezed. Here is the potential ending:



On the last spade, if West pitches a heart declarer simply ducks one, so he throws a club. But North continues with the ♣ 10 and a heart to the 10 (or 9, or queen) end playing West.

Like my analysis? Well, though I hope you did, before publishing I was wise enough to ask Bas Drijver about his line of play, and guess what? The BBO record is wrong: Gawrys played back the ♣ 8 at trick three, and Klukowski ducked it, sealing declarer's fate! Well, not to worry: I had the chance to offer you some extra fun.



West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦ ¹	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	All pass	

¹ hearts
 3 ♥ by South
 Lead: ♥ J

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 NT

All pass
 1 NT by South
 Lead: ♠ 4

Board 8 brought 6 more IMPs into Zimmerman's safe, though there's some question mark about how it happened.

The first difference came thanks to the different methods used: Multon-Zimmerman use 9-11 1NT, so Multon was too strong, and this allowed them to find the heart fit. The second was due to Gawry-Klukowski's accurate defence. The spade lead went to the king, and the second spade was won by west. Klukowski tabled a club, and his side had eight tricks. Short and sweet.

In the other room, it looks like Kalita found the best lead, a trump, and now declarer should go down one. However, BBO recorded the contract as made, but without any further data being there to understand how. That is, the defenders can play a trump whenever declarer ducks a spade to set up a ruff, and no squeeze is available.

Board 9

North Deals	♠ A J 7 6 4		
E-W Vul	♥ Q J 2		
	♦ A K 6 5		
	♣ 8		

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

♠ 10 3
♥ A 10
♦ Q 10 9 7
♣ K Q 10 5 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Dbl	All pass

3 NT× by South
 Lead: ♠ 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥ !	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥ !
Pass	3 ♠ !	Pass	3 NT

All pass
 3 NT by South
 Lead: ♣ 2

Zimmerman extended their lead when Pepsi found a double on the same 3NT contract in both rooms, both "on the auction" and as lead directing. He duly got the lead he was asking for, but it was not enough.

Kalita's ♠ 2 lead went to East's king, who played back a club, but Multon won and simply continued with a spade, establishing his ninth winner.

In the other room the club lead resulted in an overtrick. Zimmerman +3 IMPs, for a comfortable 26-0 headstart.

Immediately afterwards, Team Blass started its comeback.

Board 10

East Deals
 Both Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
		2 NT	Pass
3 ♣ ¹	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♥ ^{!2}	Dbl	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♣ ³	Pass	5 ♦ ^{!4}	Pass
5 NT	Pass	6 ♠	All pass

1. Puppet Stayman
2. Spades
3. 1 or 4
4. Queen of spades?

6 ♠ by East
 Lead: ♥ 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
		1 ♣	Pass
1 ♠	3 ♥	4 ♠	All pass
4 ♠ by West			
Lead: ♣ 6			

Kalita-Pepsi had no real trouble in reaching the best spot after the 2NT opening. Meanwhile something went wrong in the other room. If 4 ♠ is the systemic rebid, then Klukowski might well have made another move. However, it might have been Gawrys who could have acted differently.

Anyway, 13 IMPs went the way of Team Blass, their first of the match and halving the deficit in one bite.

Followed by another 4 IMPs right afterwards.

Board 11

South Deals	♠ K 10		
None Vul	♥ J 10 8		
	♦ A J 10 7		
	♣ 8 7 6 5		
		N	
♠ 8 7		W	E
♥ 9 7 6 2			
♦ K 9 8 5		S	
♣ Q J 10			
	♠ A 9 4		♠ Q J 6 5 3 2
	♥ 4 3		♥ A K Q 5
	♦ 6 4 3 2		♦ Q
	♣ A K 9 2		♣ 4 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
			1 NT
Pass	Pass	2 ♣ !	Pass
2 ♥	All pass		
2 ♥ by West			
Lead: ♥ 8			

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
			1 NT
Pass	Pass	2 ♣ !	Dbl
2 ♥	3 ♣	3 ♥	All pass
3 ♥ by West			
Lead: ♣ 8			

In the Closed Room, Brink's double over 2♣ allowed his partner to compete effectively: 3♣ can be made with some inspiration in diamonds, while 3♥ is definitely too high (Gawrys 3♥, however, was certainly not merely competitive: it had some invitational tones). The defenders did not extract all the available tricks, but the five they scored were enough to take Klukowski down one.

In the other room, after another 1NT opening bid, NS kept silent, and Kalita found himself at the helm of 2♥. Zimmerman led the ♥8, good enough to set the contract (actually, any lead except a low diamond works fine), and West won in dummy to table the ♠Q, which went to North's king. Zimmerman continued by cashing the ♦A - not fatal yet - but then he played a second diamond, allowing West to pitch a club from dummy and go after spades. There are no less than three different winning defences: NS can either cash their minor suit winners, then ♠A and another spade to promote one of North's trump, or simply play back a trump (declarer cannot set up spades retaining control), or even immediately promote a trump trick, then cash minor suit winners.

Board 12

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2 NT	Dbl	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♦	3 ♠	All pass

3 ♠ by East

Lead: ♦ 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2 ♥
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♥	All pass	

3 ♥ by South

Lead: ♠ 5

More IMPs went Team Blass' way thanks again to enterprise in competition, and some systemic features. In the Open Room, Multon was brave enough to keep the auction alive when 2 ♠ came back to him. I expect he would have converted 3 ♦ to 3 ♥, but we will never know: Pepsi took the push to 3 ♠ and played there, going one down peacefully.

In the other room, Klukowski, playing Polish club, knew his partner was limited to 16 HCP, and passed the opening bid, which gave his Dutch opponents time to find their best spot. Also, not knowing well what to expect, and perhaps afraid of pushing his opponents to a makeable game, Gawryś decided to defend. However, 3 ♥ proved to be cold, and Team Blass scored 3 IMPs, closing in on their opponents, the margin now only 6 IMPs: 20-26.

Board 13

North Deals
Both Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
	3 NT	Pass	4 ♣
Dbl	4 ♦	4 ♠	All pass

4 ♠ by East

Lead: ♥ 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Gawryś</i>	<i>Brink</i>
	1 ♦ ¹	1 ♠	2 ♦
Dbl	5 ♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All pass		

¹natural but unbalanced: 5+ unless 4441 ♣

5 ♦ × by North

Lead: ♥ J

Team Blass's surge continued: another 4 IMPs thanks to a save not found by the Zimmerman team. The two auctions timed differently. While Drijver was almost compelled to immediately jump to 5♦, Multon, despite knowing about the huge fit, stayed quiet in the face of either going for a number, or pushing the opponents to bid a makeable slam. 5♦ x drifted two off, while 4♠ recorded one overtrick: 4 IMPs to Team Blass.

Board 14
 East Deals
 None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
		Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

4 ♠ by North

Lead: ♥ A

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
		Pass	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All pass			

3 ♦ x by West

Lead: ♣ J

Team Blass added another wee jewel to their swing string, overtaking the opponents, when, once again, two different systemic actions led to very different contract. In the Open Room, Multon's mini no trump found his partner with enough strength to bid up to a game which might be made on lucky days, but drifted three off when the day proved to be one of the worst. In the other room, after two passes Klukowski went for an aggressive preempt, and after a very normal auction recorded -100. A total of 6 IMPs to Team Blass, now in the lead for the first time, 30-26.

Board 15

South Deals
N-S Vul

♠ A Q J 9 7 6 3

♥ A J

♦ 6 5

♣ J 3

♠ 5

♥ 10 9 8 7 6

♦ J 7 4 2

♣ Q 10 7

W N
S E

♠ K 8 4

♥ K 5 4 3

♦ A Q 8

♣ A K 5

♠ 10 2

♥ Q 2

♦ K 10 9 3

♣ 9 8 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Dbl	Pass
2 ♥	2 ♠	4 ♥	All pass

4 ♥ by West

Lead: ♦ 6

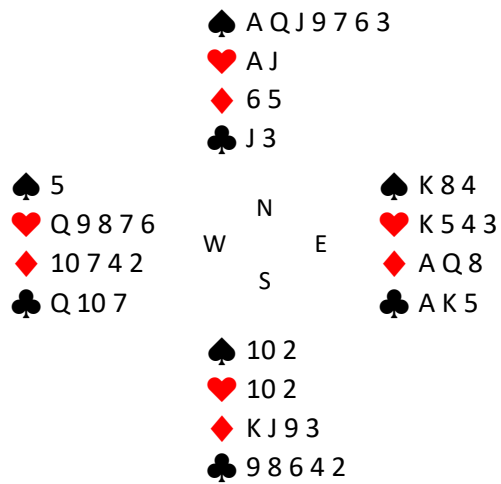
West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Dbl	Pass
2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	All pass		

4 ♥ by West

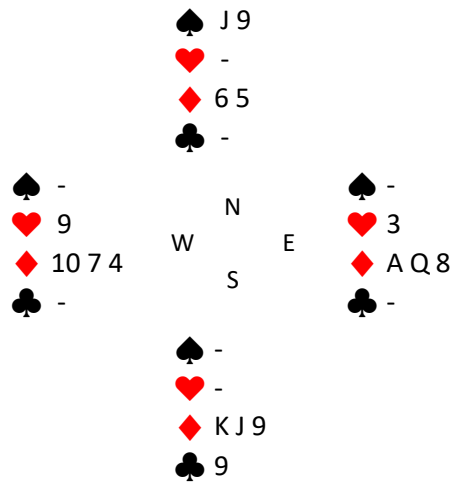
Lead: ♠ A

The first stanza ended with a push board, but both NS pairs missed the chance to score a 10 IMP swing, missing the winning defense against 4 ♥. In the Open Room, Zimmerman led the ♦ 6, and when declarer ducked in dummy, Multon had the chance to win and play a spade. Had he done so, North should have won and continued with another spade, then, upon winning with the ♥ A, a third round of spade would have allowed South to score the setting trick with the trump queen. However, Multon put in the ten, and Kalita did not have any further problems.

In the Closed Room Drijver led the ♠ A and another, setting up the winning position straight away, but when Klukowski won, he came to hand with the ♣ Q and played a heart, won and continued with a diamond. Do not think it a silly mistake: Drijver had to decide whether to play his partner for the ♥ Q or ♦ KJ. Shift those two cards between West and South, and North's play would be the only way to spare his partner a fatal end play. Let's see the hypothetical hand:



In the given circumstance, North plays a spade, ruffed and over-ruffed. West plays a heart to dummy's king, cashes ♣ AK, and enter his own hand with a trump, leaving:



A diamond to any of dummy's cards finishes South off.