

# Spingold 2019 - Final

## Second stanza

**Board 16**  
 West Deals  
 E-W Vul

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

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

3 ♠ by South

Lead: ♣ A

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♠	3 ♣	3 ♠
All pass			

3 ♠ by South

Lead: ♣ A

The first stanza did not lack interest, but the second started with a dull hand. Both NS pairs took the obvious enough push to 3♠ over the opponents' lay-down 3♣, and went one down in top tricks. But the spectators didn't have to wait long to see blood spill.

**Board 17**

North Deals  
None Vul  
♠ Q 8  
♥ K 10 7 4  
♦ A 8 2  
♣ A 10 6 3

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

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

1. no major
2. majors

3 ♦ by South

Lead: ♠ 7

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 NT
All pass			

3 NT by North

Lead: ♣ 2

As we have already seen, playing a 12-14 NT, the Dutch had a pretty easy route to the lay-down 3NT, cold even if you misguess the ♦Q as Drijver did, while Multon and Zimmermann missed it. Multon was too strong for the partnership's NT range at this vulnerability, so system worked against them this time. Zimmermann did guess the trump queen, sparing an IMP: - 6 instead of -7. More were just around the corner.

**Board 18**

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ 8

♥ 10 2

♦ Q J 10 5

♣ 10 7 6 4 3 2

♠ A Q J 3

♥ J 5 4 3

♦ 4 3

♣ A K 5

W N E S

♠ 9 5

♥ K Q 8 7 6

♦ 7 6

♣ Q J 9 8

♠ K 10 7 6 4 2

♥ A 9

♦ A K 9 8 2

♣ —

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

5 ♦× by South

Lead: ♣ K

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
		Pass	1 ♠
1 NT	Pass	2 ♦!	2 ♥
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Dbl
All pass			

4 ♥× by West

Lead: ♠ 8

In the Open Room, Multon's practical bid made it easy for Zimmerman to jump to five diamonds, a contract which is cold on paper (even after the trump lead, which is best for the defenders - declarer survives by winning and tabling either the ten or the king of spades, eventually playing the second high spade through west), and proved easy after the normal ♣K lead.

In the Closed Room, Brink's 2♥ - huge two-suiter with a minor - and a double were not enough to convince his partner to bid on. After the spade lead the defenders organised their ruffs to set the contract two tricks, drawing 10 IMPs to Zimmerman a result that levelled the match at 36 apiece.

**Board 19**      ♠ 8 3  
 South Deals      ♥ Q 5  
 E-W Vul          ♦ A Q 10 5 3  
                      ♣ A 9 6 2

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

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

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♥ A

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

3 ♦ by North

Lead: ♠ 7

In rather an unusual way, Zimmerman then took their lead back: failing by just one trick in a game, while the opponents went down by two tricks in a part score.

For the zillionth time in the burgeoning match, system played a leading role. Multon did not have the option to open 1NT holding such good spades, and his pair inevitably ended up in four spades where he lost a club, two hearts and a spade. In the other room the Landy overcall meant that spades were no longer available, and after an invitational sequence the Dutch signed off in three diamonds.

Double dummy, Drijver had the chance to flatten the board, but it was too much to ask. The spade lead was won in dummy, and two rounds of diamonds followed. Drijver played another spade and here came the key point: to limit his losses to five tricks, declarer needed to play on clubs, but that would have meant giving up on making the contract, so he cashed another spade, pitching a heart, hoping to be later being able to negotiate clubs for one loser. It was not to be: Helness ruffed,

cash the ♦J and played a heart, which Martens won and continued the suit. With clubs as they were, Drijver was doomed to lose control before establishing a second club winner. 2 IMPs to Zimmerman.

**Board 20**

West Deals      ♠ Q J 8  
 Both Vul        ♥ 10 3 2  
                      ♦ K J 8 4  
                      ♣ J 8 4

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

♠ 10 7 5 3  
 ♥ A J 4  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ A K Q 7 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT

All pass  
 3 NT by North

Lead: ♦ 10

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♣!
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2 ♣	All pass	

2 ♣ by South

Lead: ♣ 10

<sup>1</sup> Guarantees an unbalanced hand

Zimmerman added a significant swing to their fresh lead, mainly thanks to a strange looking conservative view by Brink, who gave up at a very low level despite his 16 HCP and a good club suit. But the main role was played by Pepsi's ♦7. Why the seven you may ask? Because without that card, the Pole would have certainly led a small diamond against Zimmerman's 3NT, instead of the ten he actually picked, a choice which proved to be fatal.

Dummy's queen scored, and a spade was led. It is not relevant whether Kalita jumps up with his king to play a diamond or not: if he does, North puts up an honour, and if East has the ♦8 he just wins and plays the back the suit. If not - as it was – nonetheless the defenders' communications are destroyed. If he doesn't, and his partner holds the ♦8, East will simply play back a high diamond retaining communication (you may argue that North might duck it, freezing diamonds while working on spades, but though it is the best effort, the play is not good enough: East can play a heart,

thereby setting up five defensive tricks before declarer can conjure his nine). If partner does not have the  $\heartsuit 8$ , as it was, there's nothing the defence can do. Bottom line: Zimmerman won 10 IMPs and were ahead by 12.

Board 21 was flat, but both teams had the same chance to find the killing lead. Here are your cards:

$\spadesuit$  Q54  $\heartsuit$  QJ3  $\diamondsuit$  A9  $\clubsuit$  Q7653

And here are the two different sequences:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
	Pass	1 $\diamondsuit$	Pass
1 $\spadesuit$	Pass	1 NT	Pass
4 $\spadesuit$	All pass		

4  $\spadesuit$  by West

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
	Pass	1 $\clubsuit$	Pass
1 $\spadesuit$	Pass	1 NT	Pass
4 $\spadesuit$	All pass		

4  $\spadesuit$  by West

Did you make up your mind? Well, both Zimmerman and Drijver led the very normal  $\heartsuit Q$ , but the winner was the  $\diamondsuit A$ , because this was the full layout:

<b>Board 21</b>	$\spadesuit$ Q 5 4	
North Deals	$\heartsuit$ Q J 3	
N-S Vul	$\diamondsuit$ A 9	
	$\clubsuit$ Q 7 6 5 3	
$\spadesuit$ A K J 9 8 7 2		$\spadesuit$ 6 3
$\heartsuit$ K 2	N	$\heartsuit$ A 10 7
$\diamondsuit$ 8 5 2	W                  E	$\diamondsuit$ J 10 7 6
$\clubsuit$ 4	S	$\clubsuit$ A K 10 8
	$\spadesuit$ 10	
	$\heartsuit$ 9 8 6 5 4	
	$\diamondsuit$ K Q 4 3	
	$\clubsuit$ J 9 2	

It was impossible to table the  $\diamondsuit A$  in the Open room, where diamonds had been bid on the leader's left, but even in the closed, looking at the guarded queen of trumps, it was very close to impossible.

**Board 22**      ♠ 5 3 2  
 East Deals      ♥ A Q 8 3  
 E-W Vul         ♦ 6  
                      ♣ A Q 9 5 2

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

♠ A 9  
 ♥ K J 7  
 ♦ A K 10 8 7  
 ♣ 8 7 6

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

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 6

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

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 7

Board 22 was flat and rather mundane, as was 23, but the latter offered another chance for a sizeable swing. Once again it was the lead decision that mattered. You hold ♠ 864 ♥ A2 ♦ 9873 ♣ KJ92

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

4 ♥ by East

Lead: ♠ 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣!	Pass	2 ♦!	Pass
4 ♥	All pass		

4 ♥ by East

Multon had no realistic chance: At his table a spade lead was automatic. But do you think Brink could have found the killing ♥A lead? Tough. Very. Here is the full layout:

**Board 23**

South Deals  
Both Vul

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

♠ 8 6 4
♥ A 2
♦ 9 8 7 3
♣ K J 9 2

Lead: ♠ 4

Did you think that leading a club is good enough provided North wins and switches to a heart? It's wrong on paper, but declarer must play virtually double dummy to prevail.

The second round of hearts is won by dummy's king, and a spade is led to East's queen (you also win by ruffing a club immediately, but the continuation is more complex). After the ace of spades you go to dummy with the ♦J, ruff a club, play two more diamonds ending in dummy and ruff another club.

Here is the ending:

		♠ K J
		♥ Q
		♦ -
		♣ -
♠ -		♠ 7 2
♥ K	N	♥ J
♦ -	W	♦ -
♣ Q 10	S	♣ -

♠ 4
♥ -
♦ 9



♣ K J

East ruffs a spade in dummy and plays a club, scoring his ♥J "en passant".

Perhaps it is worth leading a club: even if your opponent makes the hand, it will have consumed a lot of his energy!

**Board 24**

West Deals      ♠ Q 10 4 3  
None Vul        ♥ 10 2  
                    ♦ A K Q 9 8 7  
                    ♣ A

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

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

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

4 ♥ by East

Lead: ♣ K

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1 ♠	2 ♦	2 ♥	3 ♣
4 ♥	All pass		

4 ♥ by East

Lead: ♦ 2

Another deal where the string of boards flattened in a game continued, board 24 was not trivial at all: I would expect 4♥ to be worth at least 75% of the matchpoints, but here at teams both reached game and, more importantly, thanks to the very lucky club position, it made because the defence could not cash their four top winners.

With Board 25 the string of flat boards ended abruptly: Team Blass almost levelled the match by scoring a heavy swing. First, I'll give you another lead problem. Put yourself in Helness's shoes (I can anticipate that in the other room Pepsi was not put to a similar test).

You hold ♠98762 ♥J5 ♦K7 ♣KQ95

*Martens BasDrijver Helness Brink*

1 ♥      Pass    2 ♣!  
 Pass    2 ♦<sup>1</sup>      Pass    4 ♥  
 All pass

<sup>1</sup> minimum

4 ♥ by North

The Norwegian tabled the ♣K, and regretted it twelve tricks later:

**Board 25**      ♠ —  
 North Deals    ♥ A 8 7 6 4 2  
 E-W Vul        ♦ 10 4  
                  ♣ A J 10 7 6

♠ Q J 4 ♥ 9 3 ♦ A J 8 6 5 3 ♣ 8 2	W      N      E S	♠ 9 8 7 6 2 ♥ J 5 ♦ K 7 ♣ K Q 9 5	♠ A K 10 5 3 ♥ K Q 10 ♦ Q 9 2 ♣ 4 3
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Drijver won, went to dummy with a high trump, pitched diamonds on spades and gave up a club.

As I said, Pepsi did not have any problem in finding the most challenging lead: the ♦K, because here is the auction in the Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Multon</i>
	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦!
Dbl	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
All pass			
4 ♥ by North			
Lead: ♦ K			

Zimmerman ruffed the third round of diamonds low, and went down, but he could have made his contract had he ruffed high, since the spade position is such to guarantee three tricks. Actually, that is a double dummy line, since the percentage play is clearly the double finesse in clubs. So, it was the different sequence which caused the difference: while Brink, systemically, suppressed spades, Multon bid them and then had to fatally go through the fourth suit game forcing to show both strength and support. 11 IMPs to Team Blass.

Next Zimmerman got 4 IMPs back, but Team Blass lost a chance to pick 5 IMPs instead.

**Board 26**  
 East Deals  
 Both Vul

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

♠ 10 2  
 ♥ A 10 2  
 ♦ K J 9 5  
 ♣ K J 10 5

W N E  
 S

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

♠ A 7 4  
 ♥ K 7 3  
 ♦ 7 3  
 ♣ A Q 9 7 6

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

2 ♣× by South

Lead: ♠ 10

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
		1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 NT	All pass		

3 NT by West

Lead: ♦ 6

The style differences here are interesting: while Brink, usually an aggressive player, kept silent, Multon risked a double which could have been very expensive. Actually, as the cards lay Kalita-Pepsi could not extract more than eight tricks, still good enough for a 5 IMPs pick-up facing the 3NT+1 in the other room, but something went wrong: at some point Pepsi played a small heart away from his jack, and Kalita won it instead of putting the ten, limiting Multon's loss to 500 points.

**Board 27**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

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

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

W N E  
 S

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

♠ K 10  
 ♥ K 10 5 4 2  
 ♦ K 6  
 ♣ 10 9 5 4

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

4 ♥ by North

Lead: ♣ Q

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
			Pass
Pass	1 ♠	2 ♦	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♥ 8

Board 27 it is not worth even the typing needed to say "flat", but not so Board 28.

**Board 28**  
 West Deals  
 N-S Vul

♠ Q 9 8 6 4 3  
 ♥ Q 10 3  
 ♦ Q J 6 2  
 ♣ —

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

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

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

4 ♥ by West

Lead: ♠ 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1 ♥	2 ♠	2 NT!	4 ♠
5 ♣	5 ♠	6 ♥	Dbl
All pass			

6 ♥× by West

Lead: ♦ J

The two auctions almost seem to belong to two different boards: Multon-Zimmerman bid their cards cautiously, not daring to go beyond the three level, while Brink-Drijver didn't care about the adverse vulnerability, bidding quickly to the five level, and then doubling the final contract! Five spades would cost an easy 500 (two heart tricks – the spade and diamond trick are just too easy), but slam was not such a bad proposition, since it would have rolled home had the ♥Q come in (well, with clubs 5-0 you also need hearts to be 2-2, yet not so far from 50%).

The spade lead, or a spade at trick two, would have netted 300, but Drijver led the ♦Q, and Brink, in with the ace, simply gave his partner a club ruff. Yet, Team Blass picked 11 IMPs, and was back in the lead, 58-52.

**Board 29**

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

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

1. hearts
2. 4 hearts

2 ♠ by East

Lead: ♥ 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>

1 ♣      1 ♦      Dbl!  
 Pass      2 ♥      2 ♠      All pass  
 2 ♠ by East  
 Lead: ♥ 3

Same sequence, same lead and no problems led to a flat board in 29, but before the long break Zimmerman levelled the stanza at 28 imps apiece.

**Board 30**

♠ A J 10 6 3			
East Deals	♥ —		
None Vul	♦ A 7 4 3 2		
	♣ A J 10		

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

♠ 4			
♥ Q J 7 6 3			
♦ 9 6			
♣ Q 9 8 4 3			

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

2 ♠ by East  
Lead: ♠ 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
		1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	2 ♦	2 ♥	Pass
2 NT	All pass		

2 NT by West  
Lead: ♠ 3

The main difference came from Zimmerman's choice to keep silent, while Drijver overcalled. It meant that Martens was better placed when he chose to bid no trump instead of giving preference. The play in the two partials is rather complex, but at the end Martens got the tricks he deserved. In the other room, Pepsi could have gone down one after the trump lead (the only lead which holds declarer to six tricks is the ♣Q!), but he did not read the position correctly in the five card ending and went down two (basically, Pepsi played South for the ♣A instead of North).