

Spingold 2019 - Final

Third stanza

The first two stanzas were relatively low scoring: Team Blass was leading 58-52, with both teams recording fewer than 2 IMPs per board - that fatidic symbol of excellence. But things were about to change, as the first board proved.

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

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

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

6 ♥ × by North

Lead: ♥ 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
	1 ♦	2 ♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All pass	

2 ♣ × by East

Lead: ♦ A

In the Closed Room Kalita decided to go for blood and passed Gawrys's overcall, confident that a reopening double was about to come. Partner duly doubled, and on paper Kalita judged well, since +500 surpasses the heart game. However, to extract all the defensive tricks available, South needed to lead a rounded suit (a heart immediately sets up a force, but a club will work just fine too

provided South plays on hearts as soon as he wins his ♣A), but he led the ♦A instead, and at that point East could not be stopped from making six tricks. Yet, +300 sufficed for a rather nice pick up, because in the other room Helness and Martens had what looks like a misunderstanding, of the kind you might expect from a not so established partnership.

Martens rejected the opportunity to play for penalties, and Helness picked spades over hearts, planning to show his third suit later on. He did, eventually, but something went wrong. Despite 2♠ being non forcing - or at least so it should be in a natural environment - Martens was probably confused by his partner's jump to 4♥. Helness was just guessing the best contract - and rightly so - but the message was not properly received.

The two Dutch even found a double of the final, hopeless slam contract, but that netted just 1 IMP, since eleven tricks were unassailable. Bottom line: 9 IMPs to Team Blass, extending their lead.

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

♠ K Q 8 6 5
♥ K J 9 3 2
♦ 9
♣ A 7

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

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♣ 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
		Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♠ 2

Board 2 was as silly as a hand can be: flat at 650 apiece, but a huge swing was just around the corner, and once again the blame falls to the Norwegian-Polish combination, though there are excuses.

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

	♠ J 8 6		
	♥ K J		
	♦ A Q 5 4		
	♣ K 10 8 6		
♠ Q 5	N	E	♠ 10 4 2
♥ 9 7 6 5	W	S	♥ A Q 10 8 3
♦ 6			♦ K 9 7
♣ J 9 7 4 3 2			♣ A Q
	♠ A K 9 7 3		
	♥ 4 2		
	♦ J 10 8 3 2		
	♣ 5		
West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Martens</i>
			2 ♠ ¹
Pass	3 ♠	4 ♥	All pass

1. spades + minor

4 ♥ by East

Lead: ♠ A

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
			2 ♠ ¹
Pass	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	Pass
4 ♥	All pass		

1. 5 ♠s & 4+ minor

4 ♥ by East

Lead: ♠ A

Both Souths showed spades and a minor, and looking at the vulnerability, both Norths did not try for game. Helness, however, went for a preemptive raise, which did not dissuade Brink, who found a very brave four level overcall with his flat hand. In the other room, Nowosadzki danced with fire when he competed - switch the queen and the king of spades and 4 ♥ is cold - but in the end he was right.

Kalita started with the ♠K, then switched to his singleton club, so setting up the killing club ruff, and in due course he got it. A swift down one. However, after the same lead Martens cashed the other spade honour, so establishing an entry to dummy for declarer being then able to pick up trumps. Yet, there was still time: had Martens switched to his singleton club, declarer could not have handled all his various problems: finessing in hearts and clubs and ruffing his diamond losers (a third spade is not good enough: declarer ruffs and plays a diamond, and he can eventually ruff both his diamonds to get two entries and finesse in both rounded suits). However, South tabled the ♦J: curtains. 12 IMPs to Team Blass.

Clearly, South was influenced by the lack of knowledge about the ♠J: had declarer held it, he would have been able to pitch dummy's diamond loser. So, Martens played his partner for a hand containing the ♦A and any certain club winner (either KQ or the ace, but if KQ, you also need declarer to hold at least two clubs).

Immediately afterwards Zimmerman got those IMPs right back, with interest.

For the third time in the match, it was all about a lead.

Here are your cards: ♠ Q ♥ K1094 ♦ KQ103 ♣ AQJ3 and here are the two different auctions:

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

4 ♠ × by West

Lead: ♠ Q

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
Pass	1 NT	Pass	Pass
Dbf ¹	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠ ²	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

1. alerted

2. 6 ♠s & 4 ♥s

4 ♠ by West

Lead: ♦ K

Did you make your mind up? Well, here is the full hand:

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

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

Helness tabled the ♠Q: the killer, while Nowosadzki picked the ♦K and Klukowski was able to score three heart ruffs to go with his five spades and two red aces. 13 IMPs to Zimmerman.

Two flat boards followed: a reasonable 4♥, down two on diamond ruffs, and a partial where a reasonable competition to 3♥ failed by two tricks, while 2♠ made just on the other room.

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

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

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

4 ♥ by East
 Lead: ♦ 8

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
	1 ♣	1 ♥	Dbl
4 ♥	All pass		

4 ♥ by East
 Lead: ♦ 8

Board 6

East Deals ♠ —
 E-W Vul ♥ 9 8 6 2
 ♦ K 9 5 2
 ♣ J 8 7 5 2

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

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

1. both majors

2 ♠ by West

Lead: ♥ 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
2 ♠	3 ♥	1 NT	2 ♣ ¹
		All pass	

1. ! probably Majors

3 ♥ by North

Lead: ♥ A

Next, Zimmerman leveled the match, but as we will see, it was a kind of swansong.

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

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

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

1. 21-22
2. no major

3 NT by West

Lead: ♥ 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
			Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	5 NT	Pass
6 ♦	All pass		

6 ♦ by West

Lead: ♦ J

Gawrys and Drijver offered two quite different opinions about the quality of the East hand after West opened 2NT (21-22 range). Basically, the Pole drove to slam, while the Dutchman signed off without even giving it a try. Gawrys was right: the slam is not great but playable, and it made easily. 13 IMPs to Zimmerman and 79 IMPs apiece.

Just a few minutes, and Team Blass recaptured the lead, never to relinquish it.

Board 8

West Deals
None Vul

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

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

3 ♥ by North

Lead: ♣ K

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 NT	2 ♣ ! ¹	Dbl	Rdbl!
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	Pass
3 ♣	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
All pass			
1. Majors			

4 ♥ by North

Lead: ♥ 2

Game is excellent, but it was missed in one room, and nearly missed in the other. I can understand Martens' pass: his partner did not have the strength to overcall at the two level after the characteristically aggressive 2♦ opening (this Dutch pair use this opening for the specific purpose of aggression). Yet, partner may have had a bit less shape and some more points, since the Pole knew that Helness's suit was not beauty. The defenders cashed their tricks, and Helness scored +170.

In the other room, Klukowski misjudged the competitive auction, allowing Nowosadzki the chance to give Kalita a better view of his shape, and this was exactly what his partner was looking for. The defenders dropped a trick - Garwys led a heart, won the diamond continuation and played another heart. Nowosadzki won in dummy and finessed his ♠9, and Gawris returned the suit. +450, and 7 IMPs.

Board 9

North Deals
E-W Vul

♠ Q J
♥ K 5 2
♦ A Q 8 7 5
♣ Q 7 5

♠ K 9 8
♥ A 6
♦ 10 6 3 2
♣ 9 8 6 2

W N E S

♠ 6 5 4 2
♥ J 7 3
♦ 9 4
♣ K 10 4 3

♠ A 10 7 3
♥ Q 10 9 8 4
♦ K J
♣ A J

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

1. artificial GF

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣ 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠ ¹
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

1. ♥ slam try?

4 ♥ by North

Lead: ♣ 3

History repeats: a totally dull Board 9, flat at 650 apiece - then a medium sized swing to Team Blass.

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

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

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

1. 2+ clubs

1 NT by West

Lead: ♠ 10

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
		Pass	Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 NT	2 ♣! ¹
Pass	2 ♦! ²	Dbl	2 ♥
3 ♦	All pass		

1. Majors
 2. equal length

3 ♦ by West

Lead: ♠ 9

As we saw in Board 8, Klukowski could not bid his diamonds, since that would have been an artificial, negative (fewer than 8 HCP), so Kalita knew East didn't have a major, so risked a potentially dangerous overcall while Martens, in a slightly different position, did not, and was cut off.

Over 2 ♥ - a heavy candidate for one off (it is basically unmakeable) - Klukowski took once again a push he was to regret. The defenders were perfect: spade lead, heart continuation and a second spades, extracting three major suit tricks while two minors were just around the corner. Down one.

In 1NT, the defence cannot do better than five tricks, and so it was: 120 sent 6 IMPs to Team Blass' account.

Board 11

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A Q 9 5
♥ K 6 2
♦ Q 4 2
♣ Q 10 7

♠ 6 4 2
♥ J 10 8 5 3
♦ A 6
♣ 9 8 6

W N E S

♠ J 10 8 7
♥ 9 4
♦ 8 7 3
♣ A J 5 2

♠ K 3
♥ A Q 7
♦ K J 10 9 5
♣ K 4 3

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

3 NT by South
Lead: ♥ J

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
			1 NT
Pass	3 NT	All pass	

3 NT by South
Lead: ♥ 5

And again: a silly hand - eleven lay-down tricks in a combined 29 HCP, 3NT - followed by a Team Blass gain (small, this time).

Board 12

West Deals
N-S Vul

♠ K J 10 7 5 4
♥ 9 6 2
♦ A 3
♣ J 2

♠ 9 2
♥ K Q 10 3
♦ K 10 6 4 2
♣ 10 6

W N E S

♠ Q 8
♥ 8
♦ Q 9 5
♣ A K 9 8 7 5 4

♠ A 6 3
♥ A J 7 5 4
♦ J 8 7
♣ Q 3

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

3 ♠ by North

Lead: ♣ A

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
Pass	2 ♦ !	3 ♣	3 ♦ !
Dbl	Pass	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	4 ♣	All pass

4 ♣ by East

Lead: ♥ A

Accept my words: this is a kind of hand that I really love, because Kalita-Nowosadzki proved that you can be one of the best pair in the world and at the same time being fully honest. I mean that against Gawrys's four clubs, Kalita led the ♥A, and when his partner followed in tempo with the ♥9 (reverse count), unable to read the situation continued the suit. Chapeaux. Gawrys pitched spades, then guessed diamonds to score +150 in his otherwise unmakeable contract.

In the other room EW did not compete, and rightly so, since 3♠ had six inescapable losers. 2 IMPs to Team Blass.

The next two boards look like more of the same: a flat board and a small swing to Team Blass, but differently than before, though flat, board 13 was not dull.

Board 13 ♠ 10 7 5
 North Deals ♥ 9 6 4 3 2
 Both Vul ♦ 7 6 3
 ♣ 6 4

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

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

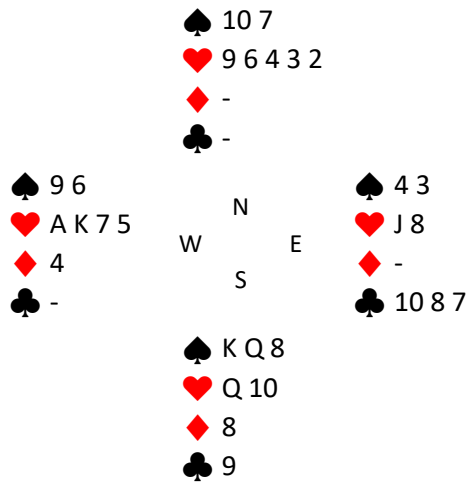
1 NT by West
 Lead: ♦ 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
1 NT	Pass	2 ♠ ¹	Dbl
3 ♣	All pass		
1. alerted by W			

3 ♣ by West
 Lead: ♠ 7

In the Closed Room Gawrys, normally enough, transferred to clubs and in the fullness of time Klukowski paid his dues: two clubs, two spades and a diamond. Down one.

In the other room, Brink erred in his 1NT contract, which should always come to six tricks if you repeatedly end-play south. After the diamond lead, West tabled the ♣K, won by Martens, who played the ♠J, won by West. Brink continued with the ♣J (fatal, in theory: either ♥AK or a spade is necessary to come to six tricks; the former play is double dummy, but the latter has some appeal), which ran to south's queen. The ♦A and another diamond followed, East winning. Here is the final position:



At that point, Brink played a spade, and when Helness played the seven - not necessarily fatal - Martens won with his eight, and that was it. South could cash his spades and diamonds winners, but was then end played. Down one here too. As you can see, had Helness won his ♠10 and played a heart through Maertens would have been off the hook.

Next, Team Blass scored 3 further IMPs, but both teams had a chance for a huge pick up. Guess what? It was all about the lead. Here are your cards:

♠ Q J 7 6
 ♥ A 9 7 6
 ♦ K 9 3 2
 ♣ J

and here are the two auctions:

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

3 NT by North

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
		Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 NT	Dbl	All pass

3 NT× by North

Both East's led the ♠Q: right suit, but wrong card, because here is the full layout:

Board 14
 East Deals
 None Vul

♠ A 9 3 ♥ 10 5 2 ♦ Q 8 5 4 ♣ 10 9 5	N W E S	♠ K 8 5 ♥ K Q J ♦ A J 7 6 ♣ A 7 4	♠ Q J 7 6 ♥ A 9 7 6 ♦ K 9 3 2 ♣ J
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	♠ 10 4 2 ♥ 8 4 3 ♦ 10 ♣ K Q 8 6 3 2		
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Lead a small spade and West, in with the ace, must switch to a low diamond. North has to duck it, but East switches back to spade, establishing five tricks for the defenders. Brink did his best: he won the lead and tabled the ♦Q: nice try, but no cigar. Klukowski ducked the lead, and Nowosadzki simply dislodged the ♥A. Helness scored an overtrick to limit his side's losses to 3 IMPs.

But the big firework was being readied for its launch high into the sky.

Board 15
 South Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ 8 4 2 ♥ J 10 ♦ Q 7 2 ♣ A K 10 6 2	N W E S	♠ 6 ♥ K Q 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 ♦ K 5 3 ♣ —	♠ A K 9 7 ♥ 2 ♦ 8 6 ♣ J 9 7 5 4 3
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	♠ Q J 10 5 3 ♥ A ♦ A J 10 9 4 ♣ Q 8		
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West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>BasDrijver</i>	<i>Martens</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♥	All pass	
	6 ♥ by North		
	Lead: ♠ K		

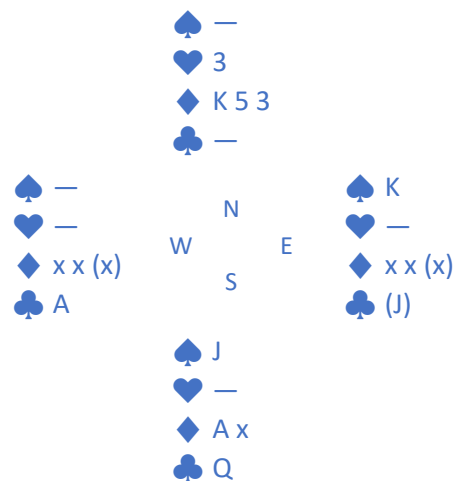
West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kalita</i>

			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♥	All pass	

6 ♥ by North
Lead: ♠ K

Both NS pairs bid exactly the same way, "easily" (I mean: roughly) to 6♥, but, as Edgar Kaplan used to say, then came the tough bit: bringing it home.

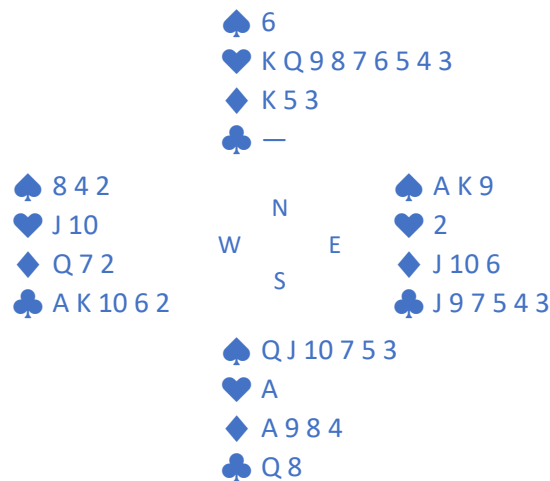
After the ♠K lead and heart continuation - the identical sequence of play at both tables - it is easy to spot double dummy that declarer does not need to guess diamonds: spades are guarded by East, and both top club honours are in West's hand, so a simple (if you can call it "simple") double squeeze was pending (well, technically it is not exactly a double squeeze, since diamonds can be guarded by one player only, but the principle is exactly the same: you don't need to know who holds the diamond guard), and I can bet that had the declarers not been looking at the ♦J10, the board would have been flat. Just to make it clear, here is the potential position when North runs hearts:



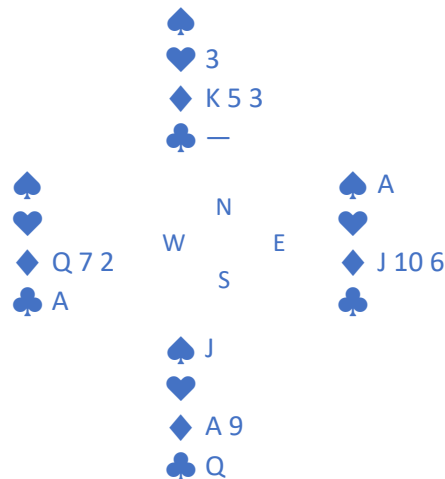
When North cashes his last trump, it doesn't matter who holds three diamonds: if it is East, he's simply squeezed in spades and diamonds, but in the scenario where the three diamonds are with West, when declarer ditches dummy's ♠J, he will be squeezed in the minors.

And to make it super clear, let's figure out a hand where declarer holds a combined seven diamonds instead of eight, and they split 3-3: a real double squeeze situation.

Say, for example:



This would be the position in the four card ending:



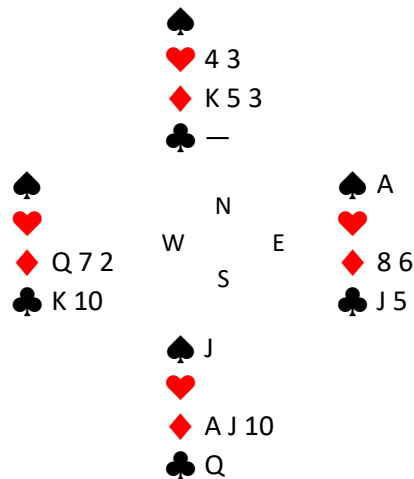
On the last heart East must pitch a diamond to keep the ♠A, but North throws the ♠J from dummy and West is squeezed in the minors.

And now a tip: take J10 of diamonds away from South's hand, and in both cases there's a winning defence: play a diamond at trick two, or *"if you can see that a double squeeze is pending, attack the double menace"*.

But, unfortunately for Helness and Nowosadzki, two players who can execute a double squeeze even when fast asleep, dummy held ♦J10, and to add to the problem, they were opposed by two top class defenders who, as we will see, played a very important role.

But let's look at how play continued. Both declarers presented dummy's ♠Q at trick three, ruffing it, then started cashing hearts.

Where Helness was at the helm, Brink pitched the ♣A at trick five, and had he been a normal player, Helness would have certainly taken it at full value and executed the pseudo-double squeeze. But Helness, evidently thought his RHO had false-carded, because in the following position



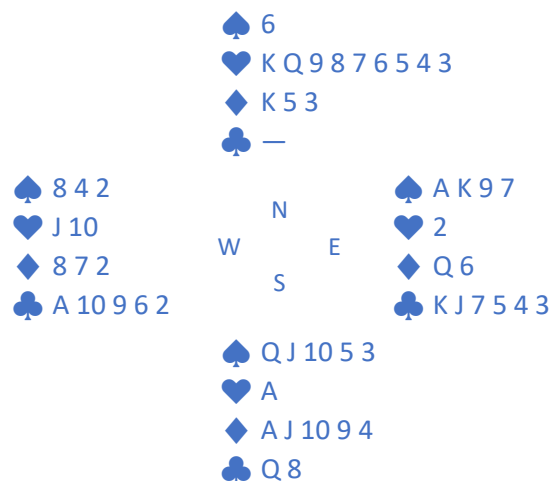
he led his penultimate heart from hand, East pitched the ♣5, and he discarded dummy's ♣Q, so destroying the double squeeze. West ditched the ♣10.

Do not think Helness a fool: put yourself in West shoes, and remove the ♣K from his hand. From this perspective, North must be void in a minor - otherwise bidding slam knowing that two aces are missing is a nonsense - and you should give him the ♦K - otherwise he cannot make the. So why not pitch the ♣A trying to fool North?

Brink is certainly a defender who is able to think far ahead into the play of a hand.

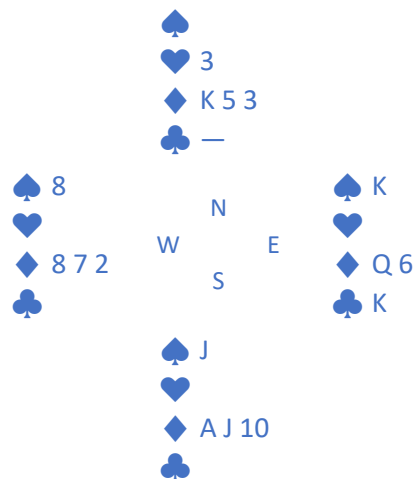
So here is the point that surely troubled Helness as he declared this slam: you can almost hear his brain whirring: "My fine opponent knows double squeezes perfectly well, so he knew what was coming, yet he, for some reason, has told me how to play the hand. Hmmm, really, should I believe him?" In other words, Helness was thinking along the lines of famous Virgilio's words in his Aeneid, where he refers to the legend of the Trojan horse to say "timeo Danaos et dona ferentes" (Beware of Greeks bearing gifts).

In other words, Helness played the hand for the following layout:

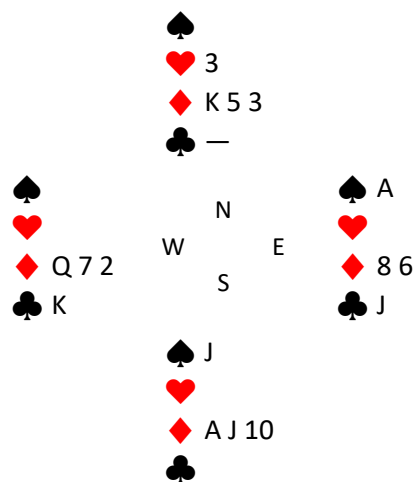


As he was not holding the ♦8 in his hand, Helness could not therefore afford to pitch a diamond from dummy, so he played the penultimate heart to watch East's discard. Hence his pitch of the ♣Q.

And consequently, for the following four card ending:



After that, Helness didn't even cash his last heart: he immediately tabled the ♦K and down he went when on the actual four card ending:



You can argue that by cashing the last heart the Norwegian would have learnt that East originally held two diamonds, so, playing with the odds, he could have guessed diamonds correctly. But remember: by that very early discard, he had already decided that Brink was trying to fool him, and had played according to the alternative layout depicted above in blue.

In the other room, Nowosadzki came to the same five card ending, but with one significant difference: in the real position pictured above West was holding ♣AK instead of K10. So, the Pole knew that a double squeeze would have required West holding both club top honours, and decided, instead, to read East's distribution, than go for the odds. Accordingly, he pitched dummy's ♣Q (♣5 from East and ♣A from West) and tabled his last trump. East's ♣J depicted him as the holder of a doubleton diamond, so declarer threw dummy's ♠J, then proceeded to cash the ♦A and run the ♦J. Well done, but proper kudos to Brink for sowing the seed of doubt in Helness's mind.

Perhaps, Gawrys might have tried some deception too: let's say that in the four card ending, he had pitched a diamond instead of the ♣J. That discard might well have convinced Nowosadzki that he had pitched from an original three card holding and he would likely have played accordingly.