



NEC Bridge Festival

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Bulletin Number 7

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Richard Colker

David Turner – Akiko Yanagisawa Win Asuka Cup

David Turner and Akiko Yanagisawa outdistanced their competition to win the 2001 Asuka Cup with a score of 2397.5. In second place were Jacek Pszczola and Takeshi Hanayama with a score of 2345.5. Third were Ishmael Del'Monte and Shoko Fukuda with a score of 2313. The top ten finishers in the event are shown below. Congratulations to all the competitors.

Rank	Score	Names
1	2397.5	David Turner – Akiko Yanagisawa
2	2345.5	Jacek Pszczola – Takeshi Hanayama
3	2313.0	Ishmael Del'Monte – Shoko Fukuda
4	2273.5	Kenji Miyakuni – Yasuhiro Shimizu
5	2246.5	Shozo Murata – Tadashi Imakura
6	2231.0	Hiroya Abe – Akira Morozumi
7	2222.0	Gaylor Kastle – Barbara Kastle
8	2221.5	Yukiko Yoshimori – Etsuko Miyaishi
9	2198.5	Donny Chen – Michael Ting
10	2187.5	Kyoko Ohno – Akihiko Yamada



Akiko Yanagisawa and David Turner

NEC Cup Bridge Festival 2001

Domo Arigato

On behalf of all the participants, we would like to congratulate **NEC** for once again joining with **JCBL** to sponsor a bridge event which continues to grow in quality and competitiveness. Many players have expressed praise for this tournament, saying that it has been one of their best bridge experiences. Kudos to the sponsors and especially the **JCBL** staff.

Yokohama, and especially the Pacifico, have grown to be wonderful places. The weather, while chilly, was dry and pleasant while the people were warm and friendly as always. It has been our great pleasure to be reunited with our many friends and to share once again the happy times, fun and excitement of this tournament. Your kindness and generosity warm our hearts.

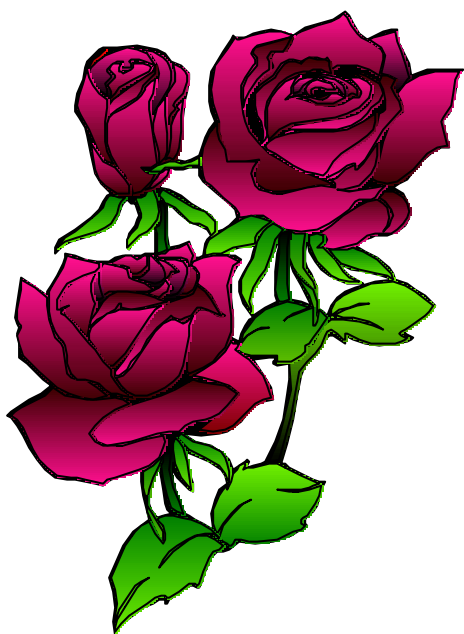
The significant prizes and broad participation make the **NEC Bridge Festival** an important event on the bridge calendar. It grows in prestige each year and we hope it will continue to grow in stature in the years to come.

The Bulletin Editors are grateful to those who helped us with deals, stories and other information to keep you informed. Many thanks to Nakatani-san, for his peerless leadership and enduring friendship. To Richard Grenside, tormented director, who this year dealt with the usual number of problems and managed to surmount them all. To Omasa-san, who provided us remarkable technical and computer support. To Nakamura-san, for his especially wonderful pictures (which we subjected to our peculiar sense of humor) and other technical assistance. To Hayashi-san and Suzuki-san for their help with many things, both technical and otherwise. To Higashiguchi-san who produced the internet coverage and who put up with our exotic late-night work schedule. To the many who brought us gifts, especially the food which was especially welcomed during our late-night work sessions. Thanks also to the many other volunteers who passed through our office performing the myriad functions critical to this tournament's success, while we were hopelessly absorbed in our computer screens. Our thanks also to the players, who produced a rich source of exciting, top-level bridge to write about.



A Special Thank You

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The NEC Cup Final

by Eric Kokish

The first quarter ended with e-bridge sitting on a 17-IMP cushion, 48-31.

Second Quarter (Boards 17-32)

Bd: 17	North	
Dlr: North	♠ 74	
Vul: None	♥ AJ1085	
	♦ 1075	
	♣ KJ4	
West		East
♠ KJ986		♠ 32
♥ KQ		♥ 9763
♦ AJ4		♦ K983
♣ AQ9		♣ 872
	South	
	♠ AQ105	
	♥ 42	
	♦ Q62	
	♣ 10653	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
	Pass	Pass	Pass

2NT All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
	Pass	Pass	Pass

1♣(1) 1♥ Pass Pass

Dble Pass 2♦ Pass

2♠ All Pass

(1) 11-13 BAL or any 17+

Lindkvist made the normal lead of the ♥10 against Lev's 2NT, stuffing up the suit. Lev won the ♥Q and returned the ♥K. With a sure entry in clubs Lindkvist followed low to reduce any potential pressure on South and, more importantly, to deny declarer an entry to dummy in the course of establishing his (Lindkvist's) hearts. Lev tried the effect of running the ♦J, but the suit was not the way he wanted it to be. Fallenius' club shift went to the queen and king, and Lindkvist took his hearts before exiting with the ♣J. Lev had only six tricks: minus 100.

Sylvan, in 2♠, got the helpful lead of the ♦7 from Pszczola. He took the queen with the ace and led the ♥Q, Pszczola winning to lead a second diamond. Sylvan won the king in dummy, blocking the suit, led a spade to his king, cashed the ♥K, and exited with a spade. Gawrys took his spades and switched to a club to the nine and jack. Pszczola had a safe heart exit so Sylvan lost a cub in the end for one down: minus 50. 2 IMPs to Sweden, 33-48. Had Sylvan won the second diamond in hand, unblocked the ♥K, crossed to the ♦K, and ruffed a heart, he would have had a chance to get home.

Bd: 18	North	
Dlr: East	♠ 9752	
Vul: N/S	♥ A107	
	♦ QJ104	
	♣ KJ	
West		East
♠ AJ104		♠ KQ6
♥ KJ4		♥ Q9852
♦ A865		♦ K7
♣ 96		♣ Q54
	South	
	♠ 83	
	♥ 63	
	♦ 932	
	♣ A108732	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
		1♥	Pass

1♠ Pass 1NT Pass

4♥ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
		1♥	Pass

2♣(1) Pass 2♦(2) Pass

2♥(3) Pass 2NT(4) Pass

4♥ All Pass

(1) Clubs or FG relay; (2) Minimum

(3) Relay; (4) Balanced

Just a dull 4♥? Hardly.

Both Souths led a spade around to the king. Both declarers led a trump — Mohan to the jack, Sundelin to the king.

Lindkvist took the jack with the ace and played ♣K, ♣J. Mohan followed low from hand but Fallenius overtook with the ♣A to lead a third round. Mohan knew his opponents might be laying a trap for him with clubs breaking normally, but decided that he would pay off to that coup. He ruffed with dummy's ♥K, then finessed against North's ten to bring in his game: plus 420. Well done indeed.

While you're nodding in approval, let your eye drift to the closed Room, where Pszczola did not take Sundelin's ♥K with the ace. Now a low heart from dummy would see him home, but PO had no reason to play that way and every reason to continue with dummy's ♥J. Unfortunately for him, Pszczola took the jack with the ace and played king-jack of clubs. Gawrys overtook and played a third club and Pszczola scored the ♥10 on an over-ruff. Hubba hubba.

Bd: 19	North		
Dir: South	♠ J95		
Vul: E/W	♥ 1053		
	♦ QJ74		
	♣ J72		
West		East	
♠ K8764		♠ A2	
♥ 986		♥ AK2	
♦ 9		♦ AK10865	
♣ A543		♣ K8	
	South		
	♠ Q103		
	♥ QJ74		
	♦ 32		
	♣ Q1096		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥(1)	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♦	All Pass

(1) Spades

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
Pass	Pass	1♣(1)	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦(2)	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) 11-13 Bal or any 17+; (2) The strong type, natural

The precise nature of 4♦ and 4♥ would require some partnership discussion, but Lev may have thought that Mohan was showing interest in a black-suit slam while Mohan may have interpreted 4♥ as interest in a diamond contract. 6♦ is quite a bit better than 6NT. 6♠, something less than a 40 shot, is the best of a bad lot and would have made. When Mohan played the top trumps he was one down: minus 100.

After Sylvan's positive (7/8+) response, Sundelin did well to adopt a conservative pessimistic approach to pass 3NT, facing a minimum and potential misfit. When he won the ♣A at trick one and passed the ♦9, he finished plus 660 13 IMPs to Sweden, 46-58.

Bd: 20	North		
Dir: West	♠ Q973		
Vul: Both	♥ Q63		
	♦ A65		
	♣ 853		
West		East	
♠ J54		♠ K86	
♥ AK2		♥ 109754	
♦ KQJ9		♦ 87	
♣ A107		♣ 942	
	South		
	♠ A102		
	♥ J8		
	♦ 10432		
	♣ KQJ6		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
1♣(1)	Pass	1♦(2)	Pass
1NT(3)	Pass	2♦(4)	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

(1) 11-13 BAL or any 17+; (2) Negative
 (3) 17-20; (4) Hearts

Tough luck for Lev/Mohan, whose natural methods don't deal with strong hands nearly as well as the club systems played by all the other pairs in this match! Mohan's light 1♥ response got Lev too high at 2NT, but he might not have enjoyed 1♦ much if left to play there. He got a sixth winner on the opening spade lead, but there was no mercy thereafter: down 200.

The two-way club fared very well indeed when Sylvan showed his 17-20 balanced and Sundelin could transfer to hearts and pass. On a spade lead to the ten and jack, Sylvan could set up diamonds for a club discard, and when Pszczola did not put in the ♠9 later, Sylvan inserted the eight for an unlikely overtrick: plus 140. 8 IMPs to Sweden, 54-58.

Bd: 21	North
Dlr: North	♠ 764
Vul: N/S	♥ AJ74
	♦ 92
	♣ AJ76
West	East
♠ 932	♠ AKJ8
♥ 105	♥ 982
♦ AKJ65	♦ Q83
♣ Q105	♣ K92
	South
	♠ Q105
	♥ KQ63
	♦ 1074
	♣ 843

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
	Pass	1♣(1)	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦(2)	All Pass

(1) 11-13 BAL or any 17+; (2) 11-13 BAL

Mohan was plus 150 when Fallenius switched to a spade after winning the fourth heart and Lindkvist lost his ♠A: plus 150.

Sylvan's 3♦ was not quite cold, but he made it without guessing clubs by conceding a spade and splitting out the suit: plus 110. 1 IMP to e-bridge, 59-54.

Bd: 22	North
Dlr: East	♠ 5
Vul: E/W	♥ 984
	♦ A652
	♣ AJ642
West	East
♠ J10432	♠ AQ976
♥ J32	♥ AK
♦ Q	♦ K10743
♣ 10983	♣ 7
	South
	♠ K8
	♥ Q10765
	♦ J98
	♣ KQ5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
		1♠	Pass

4♠ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
		1♣(1)	1♥
Pass	2♣	2♠	Pass

4♠ All Pass

(1) 11-13 BAL or any 17+

Although the two-way club made it easy for the Poles to enter the auction they didn't have enough fit to give their opponents any problems. The board was flat at E/W plus 620.

Bd: 23	North		
Dir: South	♠ Q52		
Vul: Both	♥ Q84		
	♦ KQ1043		
	♣ Q9		
West		East	
♠ 10764		♠ KJ93	
♥ 9632		♥ AKJ7	
♦ 98		♦ AJ52	
♣ J63		♣ 2	
	South		
	♠ A8		
	♥ 105		
	♦ 76		
	♣ AK108754		

Bd: 24	North		
Dir: West	♠ Q10954		
Vul: None	♥ QJ		
	♦ 2		
	♣ KJ852		
West		East	
♠ KJ76		♠ A3	
♥ 6532		♥ AK7	
♦ AQ53		♦ 109876	
♣ 7		♣ 963	
	South		
	♠ 82		
	♥ 10984		
	♦ KJ4		
	♣ AQ104		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
			2♣
Pass	2♦(1)	Pass	2♠(2)
Pass	3♣	Dble	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) Inquiry; (2) No major, non-HCP maximum

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
			2♣
Pass	2♦(1)	Dble	All Pass

Mohan had to wait to make his takeout double of clubs but he bought badly and paid a heavy price for a normal action when Fallenius inveigled his way into 3NT from the North side. With all the cards in East, even an annoying club lead won't beat it. Mohann cashed the ♥A and switched to the ♠K: plus 600.

Sundelin's double of 2♦ was misexplained by Sylvan to Gawrys as showing diamonds. When Pszczola decided to play 2♦ doubled, "knowing" the diamonds were on his *right* for Sylvan's penalty pass, he went one down: minus 200. When the misexplanation came to light, the Director adjusted the contract to 3NT making 600, so the board was halved in bizarre fashion, wiping out Bjorn and Magnus' excellent adventure. No swing, so e-bridge retained a 5-IMP lead, 59-54.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
1♦	2♦(1)	2♠(2)	4♣
Pass	Pass	5♦	All Pass

(1) Spades and clubs; (2) Diamonds

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
Pass	2♠(1)	Pass	2NT(2)
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

(1) Spades and another suit; (2) Which suit?

Lev's aggressive view to open the bidding, which may have had something to do with the previous deal, got him to a pushy 5♦, which he couldn't make on two rounds of clubs. It would have been better to double 4♣, but that was impossible, of course. Minus 50. That was one more minus position for Lev/Mohan, who were surely not enjoying this set so far.

In the other room, where Sylvan passed the West hand, Pszczola opened 2♠ to show spades and another, 5/5, moderate strength. When the Poles came to rest in 3♣, Sylvan might have protected, but it was hardly clear that his opponents had such a good fit and that there would be a playable contract for his side. He passed and 3♣ went one down: minus 50. 3 IMPs to Sweden, 57-59.

Bd: 25	North
Dlr: North	♠ AK7652
Vul: E/W	♥ A983
	♦ K82
	♣ ---
West	East
♠ Q	♠ 9843
♥ 1062	♥ K54
♦ J1053	♦ AQ6
♣ QJ985	♣ K76
	South
	♠ J10
	♥ QJ7
	♦ 974
	♣ A10432

Pszczola had a chance, double dummy, on a club lead, by guessing that the ♠A was offside — he must use his entries to dummy to ruff clubs, eliminating hearts en route, then throw East in with the fourth trump to lead a diamond. Too tough. Still e-bridge by 2, 59-57.

Bd: 26	North
Dlr: East	♠ 7
Vul: Both	♥ 1052
	♦ KJ1063
	♣ K862
West	East
♠ Q93	♠ A84
♥ K974	♥ A83
♦ A97	♦ Q842
♣ 973	♣ AJ10
	South
	♠ KJ10652
	♥ QJ6
	♦ 5
	♣ Q54

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
	1♠	Pass	1NT
	2♥*	Pass	2♠
	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
	1♠	Pass	1NT
	2♥	Pass	2♠
	3♠	Pass	4♠
	All Pass		

Pszczola's 3♠ looks much more reasonable than Lindkvist's 4♠, but there were undoubtedly some inferences in their sequence that are not apparent to us. 4♠ needed some help from the defense but it was not forthcoming.



Hhmm, if his signals are right, he's showing 3-3-6-5!"

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
		1NT	2♦(1)
		Pass	2♠
		All Pass	

(1) One major

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
		1NT	All Pass

Fallenius' decision to compete over Mohan's strong notrump would probably be the popular expert action in these trying times. Lev saw an opportunity to change the momentum and initiated the doubling process, taking care of 2♠ himself. After two rounds of hearts, Fallenius contributing honors, Lev found the club shift, then rose with the ♠A to cash Mohan's two clubs. The third heart tucked dummy in to allow Fallenius to lead a trump to the king. Now he had to guess whether spades were three-three or four-two, with Mohan down to the blank ace. Here the winning play was to exit with a spade honor, but Fallenius thought it more likely that Lev

had four spades, so exited with a low trump. Lev won the nine and led the thirteenth heart for Mohan to ruff with the ♠A: minus 800. If Lev had four spades and the long heart (necessary to avoid having Mohan lead it), he would have started with two diamonds, in which case Mohan would surely have returned a diamond rather than the heart. Thus it would seem that Fallenius made the wrong play in the endgame. Tough.

When Gawrys decided not to come in, Sylvan, facing a 14-16 notrump, judged it best to pass. Right he was, as 1NT was high enough. Sundelin could have made two but did not wish to jeopardize his plus in 1NT: plus 90. 12 IMPs to e-bridge, 71-57.

strong type, so he had to pass. The defenders cashed five diamonds, putting pressure on dummy. Lindkvist guessed clubs, however, and emerged with seven tricks: plus 90.

In the G/P version of the Polish Club, Gawrys had to open 2♣. Not much fun there. As Pszczola had a real fit, however, all was relatively well. Gawrys ruffed the diamond lead and led a sensible but unfortunate spade to the ten and jack. The defenders forced him at every opportunity and the hand fell apart for him. He lost two spades and a ruff and, eventually, trump control. In effect, Gawrys lost *four* spade tricks: minus 50. 4 IMPs to Sweden, reducing the e-bridge lead to 10 IMPs, 61-71

Bd: 27	North		
Dlr: South	♠ A109		
Vul: None	♥ 1032		
	♦ 10853		
	♣ K52		
West		East	
♠ 63		♠ KJ72	
♥ K876		♥ Q5	
♦ KQ74		♦ AJ962	
♣ 874		♣ Q3	
	South		
	♠ Q854		
	♥ AJ94		
	♦ ---		
	♣ AJ1096		

Bd: 28	North		
Dlr: West	♠ KJ84		
Vul: N/S	♥ K62		
	♦ KJ2		
	♣ J92		
West		East	
♠ 102		♠ AQ765	
♥ QJ5		♥ 93	
♦ 10863		♦ Q97	
♣ AQ105		♣ 874	
	South		
	♠ 93		
	♥ A10874		
	♦ A54		
	♣ K63		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius

			1♣(1)
Pass	1♦(2)	Pass	1♥(3)

Pass	1NT	All Pass	
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(1) 11-13 BAL, any 17+ or short ♦, 11-16

(2) Negative

(3) Lower range, 3/4 hearts, or medium strong

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
			2♣

Pass	2NT(1)	Pass	3♣
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All Pass

(1) Puppet to 3♣

Fallenius followed a sequence where his natural 1♥ rebid did not define his range; over the 1NT rebid any further action would have shown the

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius

Pass	1♣(1)	1♠	2♦(2)
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble

Pass	3♥	All Pass	
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(1) Three-way 1♣, F1

(2) Hearts, competitive or better

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
	1♣(1)	Pass	1♥

Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣(2)
Pass	2♦(3)	Pass	2NT(4)

Pass	3♥	All Pass	
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(1) Polish club, F1; (2) Artificial force

(3) Minimum with three hearts

(4) Game try, five hearts

The Swedes had a chance for a good result by defending 2♠ doubled but Lindkvist hadn't supported hearts yet and could not know that Lev had raised with only two trumps. 3♥ would have gone two down if Lev had switched to diamonds early, but after the rump lead, he switched to the ♠10 when he won his trump trick and Lindkvist got out for one down: minus 100.

As Sundelin had refrained from overcalling, Sylvan was not tempted to lead a spade against Gawrys' 3♥, and the diamond lead produced a second undertrick: minus 200. 3 IMPs to Sweden, 64-71.

(is that North hand really worth an extra point?). Still, the play might have taken quite a bit longer had Mohan not led the ♥A, giving Lindkvist an easy ride: plus 1430.

The Poles explored more carefully and Gawrys knew he would find a balanced hand with four trumps and a diamond control. Slam is theoretically better from the South side as declarer may have an advantage in clubs and the timing to test diamonds. Here Gawrys ruffed the heart lead, drew trumps, and played diamonds from the top: plus 1430. No swing. 71-64 to e-bridge.

Bd: 29	North		
Dlr: North	♠ A1054		
Vul: Both	♥ K1092		
	♦ K2		
	♣ QJ2		
West		East	
♠ J82		♠ 9	
♥ Q8743		♥ AJ65	
♦ Q7		♦ 9853	
♣ K106		♣ 9754	
	South		
	♠ KQ763		
	♥ ---		
	♦ AJ1064		
	♣ A83		

Bd: 30	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 96		
Vul: None	♥ AJ8632		
	♦ AQ96		
	♣ 9		
West		East	
♠ K3		♠ QJ542	
♥ Q104		♥ K95	
♦ 1085432		♦ J7	
♣ 82		♣ K75	
	South		
	♠ A1087		
	♥ 7		
	♦ K		
	♣ AQJ10643		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
	1NT(1)	Pass	2♥(2)
Pass	2♠	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

(1) 14-16?; (2) Spades

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
	1♣(1)	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT(2)
Pass	3♦(3)	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♠

All Pass

(1) Polish Club, F1; (2) Artificial force

(3) Balanced minimum

Fallenius' sequence was uncharacteristically unilateral but he found a very good fit opposite

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
		Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
		Pass	1♣(1)
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣
Pass	2♦(2)	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT

All Pass

(1) Polish Club, F1; (2) Forcing

Both N/S pairs do well to reach 3NT, and although the defenders lead spades and kill that entry to the South hand, the spade pips

are strong enough to stop the suit and both declarers come to nine tricks by knocking out the ♣K: plus 400. No swing.

Bd: 31	North		
Dir: South	♠ 82		
Vul: N/S	♥ KQJ75		
	♦ 76		
	♣ Q754		
West		East	
♠ K3		♠ A107	
♥ 862		♥ A109	
♦ AK85		♦ J2	
♣ AJ96		♣ K10832	
	South		
	♠ QJ9654		
	♥ 43		
	♦ Q10943		
	♣ ---		

Open Room/Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
			2♠(1)
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
(1) Weak two-suiter with spades			

Both Wests, with an awkward hand, opted for a tin 2NT, which worked beautifully. Lindkvist led the ♥K, which Lev ducked. He took the second heart, guessed clubs correctly for safety, and put pressure on South, who had released a couple of diamonds. In the endgame, when Lev led the ♦J and South covered, he could duck and come to three diamond tricks: plus 460.

Although Pszczola led a spade, the end position was the same and Sylvan also took eleven tricks for plus 460 and a push. South had to avoid covering the ♦J with Q109 to dissuade declarer from ducking the trick!



"Is Zia on Vugraph?"

Bd: 32	North		
Dir: West	♠ 9732		
Vul: E/W	♥ KQ		
	♦ Q1092		
	♣ 1042		
West		East	
♠ 64		♠ K1085	
♥ 987		♥ AJ10532	
♦ AK73		♦ J5	
♣ AQJ3		♣ 8	
	South		
	♠ AQJ		
	♥ 64		
	♦ 864		
	♣ K9765		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
1NT	Pass	2♣(1)	Pass
2♦	Pass	4♣(2)	Dble
4♥	All Pass		

When Mohan invited game with 3♥ opposite 12-14 balanced, Lev had an easy raise. Mohan won the diamond lead in dummy and led a spade to the ten and jack. When Fallenius did not shift to a trump, Mohan was in pretty good shape. He won the diamond continuation and led a spade to the eight and queen. He won the belated trump shift and ruffed a spade, felling the ace, and so lost only a trump trick after that: plus 620, a good result.

Over Sylvan's 14-16 notrump Sundelin drove to game, showing long hearts and secondary spades. Gawrys' double of 4♣ made Sylvan's task much easier, especially when Gawrys put up the ♣K at trick one. Flat at plus 620.

With four pushes in a row to run out the set (and eight in all), Sweden gained 10 IMPs on the session, 33-23, and halfway through the 64-board final, trailed e-bridge by 7IMP, 64-71.

The NEC Cup Final

by Rich Colker

At the half of the 2001 NEC Cup, Team e-bridge led Sweden by the score of 71-64. It was still anyone's match, and thirty-two board remained to determine who would take home the Gold medal.

Third Quarter (Boards 33-48):

Bd: 33	North		
Dlr: North	♠ K52		
Vul: None	♥ 1075		
	♦ 1075		
	♣ KQ86		
West		East	
♠ Q4		♠ 1076	
♥ A9432		♥ J86	
♦ AQJ		♦ K643	
♣ A52		♣ J43	
	South		
	♠ AJ983		
	♥ KQ		
	♦ 982		
	♣ 1097		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
	Pass	Pass	Pass

1NT All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♥	2♠	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♥	All Pass

With 17 highs and a weak five-card major, Lev chose to open his hand with a strong notrump. Hearts plays better than notrump, especially on a spade lead where 1NT would fail (an early club shift would beat it two) and hearts would make at least eight tricks. The West hand is a paradox of indicators for 1NT versus 1♥, but I tend to agree with Lev that 1NT will more often work out best. In this case Sylvan led his weaker major—which just happened to be Lev's suit. Lev guessed well to duck the second heart to P.O.'s king (after all, Sylvan could have led from ♥K1074) and P.O.

made the surrounding play of leading the ♠J, queen, king, low, bringing in the spade suit, and switched to clubs to look for the setting trick there. But Lev rose with the ♣A and claimed the rest; plus 90. In the Closed Room Gawrys directed the defense by opening 1♠ in third seat and now 2♥ looked better to Fallenius than either 1NT without a spade stopper or double, which risked losing the fifth heart. Lindkvist's 2NT was apparently showed a weak raise after he corrected Fallenius' 3♣ to hearts. E/W now figured to be a level too high but help arrived in the form of a trump lead. Fallenius won, ducked a second trump, won the club return, and unblocked the diamonds before drawing the last outstanding trump with dummy's jack and pitching a loser on the ♦K. Nine tricks, plus 140, and 2 IMPs to Sweden, trailing now 71-66.

Bd: 34	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 543		
Vul: N/S	♥ J7		
	♦ A107		
	♣ AKQ108		
West		East	
♠ J6		♠ K972	
♥ K108		♥ AQ9543	
♦ Q862		♦ J54	
♣ 7632		♣ ---	
	South		
	♠ AQ108		
	♥ 62		
	♦ K93		
	♣ J954		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
		1♥	Pass

2♥ Dble 3♥* 4♥

Pass 5♣ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
		1♥	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♥	3♣	3♥	4♣
All Pass			

With such weak spades and strong clubs, a 2♣ overall seems preferable to Sylvan's choice of double, which propelled his side to the five level when even four could have been too high. Mohan started with ace and a heart to Lev's king and Lev exited with a trump. Sylvan won and tried a spade to the ten but Lev won the jack and played another trump. Next Sylvan played a spade to the queen, drew trump, but had to lose a diamond in the end when spades failed to split three-three. Two down, minus 200. In the Closed Room Fallenius' 1NT was semi-forcing and Lindkvist's 2♣ was a relay that was not described on our copy of their convention card. Pszczola came in at the three level (why not 2♣ earlier?) and now Gawrys competed to 4♣, which was makeable with the help of the triple spade finesse. But the play went the same as in the Open Room and Pszczola ended down one, minus 100. But that was 3 IMPs for e-bridge to increase their lead to 74-66.

Bd: 35	North
Dlr: South	♠ K1087
Vul: E/W	♥ 973
	♦ 65
	♣ AQ62
West	East
♠ AQ93	♠ 652
♥ J10854	♥ AK
♦ 7	♦ AJ832
♣ KJ7	♣ 1085
	South
	♠ J4
	♥ Q62
	♦ KQ1094
	♣ 943

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
			Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
			Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣*	2♦
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Usually 11 opposite 12, with no source of tricks, is not enough to contract for game. But both E/W pairs here had no trouble driving right into 3NT. With all the black-suit cards sitting wrong and the ♥Q not falling, it was just a question of undertricks. In the Open Room Sylvan started the ♠8, giving Lev a second spade trick. Lev unblocked the ace-king of hearts and tried to return to hand with a club. Sylvan won the jack with the queen and switched accurately to a diamond. Lev rose ace and tried another club to the king but that fared no better than the last attempt. A second diamond went to P.O.'s nine as Lev pitched a spade, and he cashed one of his honors as Lev threw another spade, Sylvan a club. A spade now went to the ace and Lev exited a heart to P.O.'s queen. Now P.O. threw dummy in with a club and claimed the last two diamond tricks for down three, plus 300. In the Closed Room Gawrys led the ♦Q against 3NT. Lindkvist won the ace and chose to play a spade to the nine and ten. Pszczola returned a diamond and Gawrys played the ♠J to the queen and king. Pszczola cleared the spades and now Lindkvist was down to the hope that the ♥Q would fall doubleton and a club would provide an entry. But when the hearts drew air and a club to the jack lost to the queen the defense had nine tricks (three spades, two clubs, three diamonds and a heart) for five down, minus 500. That was another 5 IMPs to e-bridge, increasing their lead over Sweden to 79-66.

Bd: 36	North
Dlr: West	♠ 76
Vul: Both	♥ A1084
	♦ 76
	♣ J9875
West	East
♠ J95	♠ Q10832
♥ K965	♥ QJ7
♦ AQ3	♦ 95
♣ A32	♣ KQ4
	South
	♠ AK4
	♥ 32
	♦ KJ10842
	♣ 106

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
1♣	Pass	1♠	2♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

There's something odd about getting to game on the previous board with a combined 23 HCP and no fit while staying out of game on this board with 24 combined HCP and a five-three spade fit. It will not escape the astute reader that no game makes on the present deal either (3NT fails on a diamond lead, 4♠ on a heart ruff) but that is hardly a reason for not bidding one—especially given the previous board. Sylvan led a diamond to the king and ace and Lev started spades. P.O. won and continued the ♦J to Lev's queen, who ruffed his third diamond before starting trumps. Sylvan win the first round and returned the suit and Lev crossed to the ♣A, cashed the ♥K getting the bad news there, and cashed his clubs for nine tricks; plus 140. Fallenius-Lindkvist had a transfer auction but Fallenius chose to pass 3NT because of his flat shape, in spite of his three-card spade support. A diamond lead would have punished him for that indiscretion but Pszczola was not up to that and led a club. Now Fallenius had the timing. He played a spade, removing one of Gawrys' entries before his diamonds could be established but he tried the ♦J anyhow, not knowing where the other honors were. Had he continued clubs, Fallenius would have had to shift to hearts to rid Pszczola of his entry before his clubs could be established. The hand is a neat example of shifting avoidance play. In practice Fallenius won the ♦Q and accurately continued his assault on spades and ended with nine tricks for plus 600 and 10 more IMPs for Sweden, trailing now by only 3 at 79-76.



Editor's nightmare

Bd: 37	North
Dlr: North	♠ A9643
Vul: N/S	♥ ---
	♦ AQJ
	♣ KQ432
West	East
♠ KJ75	♠ Q10
♥ AK98	♥ QJ753
♦ 9754	♦ 832
♣ 7	♣ J105
	South
	♠ 82
	♥ 10642
	♦ K106
	♣ A986

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
	1♣*	Pass	1♦*
Dble	1♠	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Dble	5♣	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

In the Open Room P.O.'s 1♣ was Swedish (two-way) and Sylvan's 1♦ was 0-7. The rest of the auction was natural. Mohan led a trump as Sylvan won in hand and played ace and a spade to Mohan's queen. Mohan continued a second trump to dummy's eight and Sylvan crossed in diamonds to ruff a spade, then repeated the process and claimed eleven tricks; plus 600. The Closed Room auction was natural and Lindkvist started the ♥Q. Pszczola ruffed and played ace and a spade as Lindkvist continued hearts. Pszczola ruffed a spade, crossed in diamonds and ruffed another spade, then drew trumps and claimed; plus 600. No swing.



Bd: 38	North
Dlr: East	♠ Q3
Vul: E/W	♥ J742
	♦ K103
	♣ 10543
West	East
♠ A762	♠ K985
♥ 95	♥ AKQ10
♦ QJ9	♦ 765
♣ J986	♣ A7
	South
	♠ J104
	♥ 863
	♦ A842
	♣ KQ2

up a trick short.) Lindkvist now had ten tricks and scored up plus 620 for a 12-IMP gain for Sweden. Of course an initial diamond lead followed by a second diamond beats 4♠ off the top as now declarer cannot avoid a club and a trump loser. Sweden had gained the lead at 88-79.

Bd: 39	North
Dlr: South	♠ 764
Vul: Both	♥ A953
	♦ J9
	♣ AK86
West	East
♠ J10	♠ AK93
♥ QJ2	♥ K84
♦ K103	♦ Q764
♣ J7532	♣ 109
	South
	♠ Q852
	♥ 1076
	♦ A852
	♣ Q4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
		1♣*	Pass
1♥*	Pass	1♠*	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

In the Open Room Lev-Mohan had a normal Stayman auction to 4♠ and P.O. started a low trump to the queen and king. Mohan attacked diamonds playing low to the queen and king and Sylvan returned a second trump to the ten and ace. Mohan ran the ♣J to P.O.'s queen and P.O. drew a third round of trumps before cashing his ♦A. That was one down; minus 100. In the Closed Room Fallenius-Lindkvist had a Swedish Club auction (1♥ showed 8+ HCP with 4+ spades, the rest was relay) to 4♠ and again a low trump was led. Lindkvist won the queen with the king and played a low club to Gawrys' queen. back came a second trump. But now Lindkvist played a heart to the ten and followed with three more rounds of hearts, pitching two of dummy's diamonds. Gawrys followed helplessly to the first three hearts but erred by ruffing the fourth round. (If he pitches he can get the lead with the ♦A, draw a third round of trumps, and declarer ends

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
			Pass
Pass	1♣*	Dble	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
			Pass
Pass	1♣	Dble	1♠
1NT	All Pass		

In the Open Room Sylvan started the defense with ace and a low club to P.O.'s queen, compromising the defense's communications. P.O. played a heart to Lev's queen and Sylvan won and returned a heart, Lev winning the jack. Now the ♠10 was passed to P.O.'s queen and P.O. tried a third heart. Lev won the king, cashed three rounds of spades, then played a diamond to the king and a diamond to the jack, queen and ace, establishing the ten as his seventh trick; plus 90. In the Closed Room Pszczola led a spade, guided by Gawrys' 1♠ response, and Fallenius ducked to set up his third spade trick. Gawrys shifted to the ♥7 and

Pszczola ducked when Fallenius played the queen. Fallenius misguessed and played a diamond to the queen and ace and back came a second heart, Fallenius winning the king. Now a diamond to the ten produced another trick for the defense who now had available two diamonds, two hearts, one spade and three clubs—if they could untangle the club position. As it turned out they couldn't as Pszczola cashed a high club, two hearts, and then his other high club for one down; minus 100. That was 5 IMPs back to e-bridge, drawing closer at 88-84.

Bd: 40	North	
Dlr: West	♠ K96	
Vul: None	♥ Q975	
	♦ J7	
	♣ 5432	
West		East
♠ AJ103		♠ Q
♥ J832		♥ 104
♦ Q106		♦ AK9842
♣ J7		♣ Q1086
	South	
	♠ 87542	
	♥ AK6	
	♦ 53	
	♣ AK9	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Dble	2♠*	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble
Rdbl	1NT	2♦	All Pass

If he could guess the spade and heart positions he could have made 2♠, but P.O. was not up to it on this day. Lev led a club to Mohan's king and a club was returned. P.O. won the ace and played a low spade up, ducking it around to the queen. Back came another club and now P.O. was at the critical point. If trumps were three two with the ace onside or doubleton offside—and he could guess which—, he could play a trump and escape with only two trump losers to go with his two diamonds and a club. But if the trump

position was as in the actual deal, he had to play four rounds of hearts, finessing on the third round, to discard his losing club. He played a low spade and ducked, catering to the doubleton-ace of trumps offside (can this possibly be percentage, even on the given auction?), and Lev cashed two more spades followed by a diamond and a club for two down, minus 100. In the Closed Room Gawrys started the ♣A against Lindkvist' 2♦ contract and switched to a trump. Lindkvist won in hand and played the ♠Q to dummy's ace, ruffing out Pszczola's ace on the way back. Now he played a diamond to dummy's ten, pitched a heart loser on the ♠10, and set about clearing the clubs. In the end he lost only two clubs and one heart; plus 130. Another IMP to Sweden, 89-84.

Bd: 41	North	
Dlr: North	♠ 872	
Vul: E/W	♥ 108	
	♦ 8642	
	♣ 10743	
West		East
♠ A1095		♠ K64
♥ AQ94		♥ 653
♦ K10		♦ AJ3
♣ KJ2		♣ Q965
	South	
	♠ QJ3	
	♥ KJ72	
	♦ Q975	
	♣ A8	

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
	Pass	Pass	1♣*
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

3NT was easy after South's opening bid, so this hand was a question of overtricks. When Sylvan chose to lead the ♠2 to the jack and ace, when P.O. regained the lead with the ♣ A at trick two he plunked the ♠Q on the table, thereby losing a trick in that suit. Lev could have made twelve tricks by guessing both the diamond and club positions but he guessed only the diamond and finished with eleven tricks; plus 660. In the Closed Room Pszczola led a club to the ace,

removing Fallenius' guess in that suit, and Gawrys found his best shift to a low heart, nine, ten. Pszczola returned his ♡8 to the queen and Fallenius now played a spade to the king and cleared the spade suit to emerge with three losers (a spade, a heart and a club) for plus 630. 1 IMP to e-bridge, now trailing 89-85.

Bd: 42	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 104		
Vul: Both	♡ AQ1087		
	◇ Q1065		
	♣ K8		
West		East	
♠ J962		♠ 75	
♡ K95		♡ 43	
◇ K942		◇ AJ3	
♣ A4		♣ Q109762	
	South		
	♠ AKQ83		
	♡ J62		
	◇ 87		
	♣ J53		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♡	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
		Pass	Pass
1♣*	1♡	1♠*	Dble
1NT	Pass	2♣	2♡
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	3◇	Pass	3♡
All Pass			

The trick here was in the bidding, and Sylvan-Sundelin won that when they easily bid to 4♡ after P.O.'s aggressive 1♠ opening. Even so, Pszczola and Gawrys were a bit conservative to only reach the three level, especially when the auction made it more likely that the ♣A and any missing heart or spade honors would be onside. Plus 620 for the Swedes and plus 170 for the Poles/e-bridgers. 10 IMPs to Sweden, leading now 99-85.

Bd: 43	North		
Dlr: South	♠ Q74		
Vul: None	♡ 10753		
	◇ K985		
	♣ A3		
West		East	
♠ A653		♠ J102	
♡ J8		♡ AK62	
◇ Q43		◇ J107	
♣ 9764		♣ KQ2	
	South		
	♠ K98		
	♡ Q94		
	◇ A62		
	♣ J1085		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass

P.O. led the right suit but not the right card, with the natural 1♣ bid coming as it did on his right. Still, the ♣J could have been right. Mohan won the club return with the king and started a low heart up, P.O. ducking. now, with six tricks in the bag, Mohan set about establishing a diamond trick which he could do by force for his seventh. P.O. won the ace and in panic switched to the ♠8 to Sylvan's queen, and the spade return set up Mohan's eighth winner. He scored up plus 120. In the Closed Room Gawrys found the low club lead, admittedly against a 1NT opening rather than a natural 1♣. But there is probably even more to be said for leading the jack in the 1NT auction. Pszczola won the ace and returned the suit to Lindkvist's king. Like Mohan in the other room the next play was a low heart up. Unlike P.O. in the other room the wily Gawrys rose with the queen to clear the clubs. Lindkvist won and started the diamonds as Pszczola won the king and returned the suit to Gawrys' ace, Lindkvist unblocking the queen. Gawrys cashed his good club and exited with a

diamond, removing Lindkvist's hand entry while the heart suit was still blocked. Lindkvist tried the hearts from the top but when that did not work he resigned, tipping over his king on the board. Down one, minus 50. 5 IMPs to e-bridge, closing the deficit to single digits at 99-90.

Bd: 44	North		
Dlr: West	♠ AK1092		
Vul: N/S	♥ J98532		
	♦ 63		
	♣ ---		
West		East	
♠ QJ54		♠ 3	
♥ KQ74		♥ 106	
♦ 9		♦ AQJ42	
♣ 7653		♣ QJ1084	
	South		
	♠ 876		
	♥ A		
	♦ K10875		
	♣ AK92		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♣	3♣*
Dble	3♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♥*	3NT	Dble
4♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

The auction is self-explanatory (for a change) and Mohan understandably started the ♣Q against 3♠, and away went the defense's diamond trick. Well, not quite. Sylvan pitched one diamond on the ♣A but after cashing the ♥A he pitched a heart on the ♣K. Very strange. Then he began a crossruff, clubs ruff, heart ruff, club ruff, heart ruff. The he exited with the ♦K to the ace and the trump return exchanged a trump trick for a ruff so in the end Sylvan finished with ten tricks instead of eleven for plus 170. In the Closed Room Pszczola's 2♥ showed 5+ hearts and 5+ in another suit and 2NT asked for further information. We'll go out on a limb and guess

that 3♥ showed spades. Lindkvist's 3NT was for the minors and Gawrys was only too happy to stop and pop 4♣. But short-term happiness is not all its cracked up to be. Pszczola led the ♠A and shifted to a heart to Gawrys' ace. He played a spade back, queen, king, ruff, and now Lindkvist played ♦A, ♦Q, ducked and passed, diamond ruff, ♠J, spade ruff with the ♣Q. Gawrys overruffed, cashed his other high club and exited with a third club. Down only one, minus 100. 2 IMPs to Sweden, trailing 101-90.

Bd: 45	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 10765		
Vul: Both	♥ AJ964		
	♦ AKQ5		
	♣ ---		
West		East	
♠ 84		♠ A3	
♥ KQ1083		♥ 72	
♦ 843		♦ J762	
♣ 843		♣ AJ765	
	South		
	♠ KQJ92		
	♥ 5		
	♦ 109		
	♣ KQ1092		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Sylvan's 4♣ was a splinter raise setting spades as trumps, so that P.O.'s later 4♥ bid would not be misconstrued as showing support. Sylvan signed off in 4♠ with such poor trumps and P.O. went quietly. Strange. The defense began with a trump and a trump and now there were only eleven tricks; plus 650. In the Closed Room Pszczola chose not to splinter with 4♣ (if it was available in his system), simply bidding game. The defense again led a trump and a trump and when Gawrys passed the ♣K plus 650 was the

result. No swing. Still e-bridge 101, Sweden 90.

Bd: 46	North
Dlr: East	♠ J8
Vul: None	♥ Q765
	♦ K43
	♣ A842
West	East
♠ 1076	♠ KQ94
♥ AK10	♥ 9842
♦ 765	♦ A982
♣ 10963	♣ Q
	South
	♠ A532
	♥ J3
	♦ QJ10
	♣ KJ75

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
		Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♥	Dble	Pass
1♠	Dble*	Pass	1NT
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥*	All Pass

Against P.O.'s 1NT Lev got off to the good lead of the ♠6, eight, nine, three. The ♠K held the next trick and a third spade drove out the ace. P.O. passed the ♦10 to the ace and Mohan cashed his last spade before exiting with a heart to the king. Lev switched to a club but P.O. knocked out the other high heart and claimed seven tricks; plus 90. Fallenius-Lindkvist had a clear run to 2♥ and Pszczola got off to the ♠J lead. Gawrys ducked dummy's king and Fallenius led a heart to the jack and king, then returned to the ♦A to lead another heart to the ten and queen. Pszczola exited with a third heart and led the ♠10, ducked around. The play record ends at this point but declarer can come to no more than six tricks with proper defense, and that's how the board was scored: two down, minus 100. No swing, still e-bridge 101, Sweden 90.

Bd: 47	North
Dlr: South	♠ Q3
Vul: N/S	♥ J106432
	♦ KQ8
	♣ J6
West	East
♠ A7	♠ J10542
♥ K95	♥ AQ8
♦ J1063	♦ A974
♣ A932	♣ 10
	South
	♠ K986
	♥ 7
	♦ 52
	♣ KQ8754

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♠	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
			Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♥*	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble*	All Pass

Mohan's 2♣ was checkback and 2♦ denied four hearts or three spades. 2♠ was constructive but non-forcing. P.O. led a deceptive ♣8 (with the natural 1♣ opening on his left) and Mohan rose with the ace and ruffed a club to hand. He then tried to cash his three top hearts but P.O. vetoed that plan by ruffing the second round, then played a third club as Sylvan ruffed with the queen. The ♦Q went to Mohan's ace and he now played a spade to the ace and a diamond toward his hand. Sylvan rose with the king and played the ♥J for P.O. to ruff and Mohan finished with eight tricks for plus 110. In the Closed Room Gawrys stepped into a forcing auction and the resulting double and pass must have convinced him that he had erred. Still, it ain't over til it's over. The defense began with the ♦J, king, ace, and Lindkvist switched to the ♣10, which rode to the jack. Gawrys exited with a low heart to Lindkvist's ace and a diamond came back to the queen. Gawrys ruffed a

diamond to hand, led a spade to the queen, and ducked a spade to Fallenius' ace. He ruffed the ♠K return and led the ♠9. As they say in the Fram oil filter ads, "You can pay me now,...or you can pay me later." Fallenius could ruff with the ♣9 and take his second trump trick now or he could pitch and take it later. He chose later. Plus 180 and 7 IMPs to e-bridge, drawing closer at 101-97.

Last deal of the third quarter.

Bd: 48	North		
Dir: West	♠ A8		
Vul: E/W	♥ KQ7543		
	♦ 92		
	♣ Q76		
West		East	
♠ Q104		♠ 76532	
♥ 962		♥ A10	
♦ QJ1074		♦ A3	
♣ K4		♣ J1095	
	South		
	♠ KJ9		
	♥ J8		
	♦ K865		
	♣ A832		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The Swedes' auction was a more-or-less standard forcing-notrump one and they quickly bid to 4♥. With only three apparent losers it seemed destined to make but a funny thing happened on the way to this forum. Mohan led the ♣J and now the threat of a club ruff loomed large in the picture. Sylvan ducked tot he king and a club came back. He won the queen in hand and tried ♠A and a spade to the jack to pitch his third club. Lev won the queen, led a diamond to Mohan's ace, and Mohan produced a club for Lev to ruff. Sylvan ended two down, minus 100. In the Closed Room Pszczola-Gawrys bid briskly to 3NT and received the ♦Q lead. Lindkvist won the ace and returned the suit. Gawrys ducked the second round to Fallenius who switched to a heart Gawrys' jack. He drove out the ace and on the club return rose with the ace and ran the hearts, squeezing West in three suits. Ten tricks, plus 430, and 11 more IMPs to e-bridge, who tied the third quarter but led in the match 108-101.

Sixteen boards remained in the 2001 NEC Cup.

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The NEC Cup Final

by Eric Kokish

With sixteen boards remaining, e-bridge and Sweden had produced some very interesting bridge to remain within a few IMPs of one another throughout the match. The bookmakers might have picked these two teams to be here at the end, but e-bridge supporters would not have liked their team's chances at various stages of the event. Still, they had played well and in good fortune when it counted and were in a position to take home the trophy if they could hold off their rivals just a bit longer. The margin was 7 IMPs in favor of e-bridge as the weary players picked up their cards to start the fourth quarter.

Fourth Quarter (Boards 49-64):

Bd: 49	North
Dlr: North	♠ AKQ8764
Vul: None	♥ Q86
	♦ ---
	♣ J76
West	East
♠ 1053	♠ 2
♥ 1042	♥ K75
♦ A3	♦ QJ9752
♣ K10852	♣ A94
	South
	♠ J9
	♥ AJ93
	♦ K10864
	♣ Q3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
	1♠	2♦	Pass
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The handling of the North cards would not be universal in any sample of modern experts, the primary decision involving a choice among 1♠, 4♠, and some artificial four-of-a-major opening, such as 4♦ or 3NT. Both Sylvan and Pszczola

preferred 1♠ but both were willing to bounce to 4♠ at their next opportunity, apparently unconcerned that they would show a better hand or that 4♠ might be a silly contract.

Sylvan ruffed the lead of the ♦Q in hand, drew trumps, and led the ♥Q, covered. He won, ruffed a diamond, felling the ace, and ran the ♥8. Lev won and switched to clubs: plus 420.

Lindkvist, whose 2♦ overcall was not given much respect by Fallenius (Gawrys trapped to defend 2♦ doubled, although that would not have happened), and he opted to attack with a low heart to the ten and queen. Pszczola took seven spades and four hearts for plus 450. 1 IMP to e-bridge, 109-101.

Bd: 50	North
Dlr: East	♠ K532
Vul: N/S	♥ A98
	♦ J3
	♣ Q964
West	East
♠ 108	♠ QJ4
♥ 5	♥ KJ107
♦ K9762	♦ 1085
♣ A10852	♣ KJ3
	South
	♠ A976
	♥ Q6432
	♦ AQ4
	♣ 7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
		Pass	1♥
2NT	3♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
		1♣(1)	1♥
2♣(2)	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	3♥
All Pass			

(1) Three-way 1♣, F1; (2) Diamonds, 8+

Perhaps Lev's Unusual 2NT is the right approach, but I am likely to remain unconvinced for the rest of my days (good defense, terrible offense, revealing the shape), the prevailing vulnerability notwithstanding. Here nothing visibly bad happened, Sylvan raising competitively and buying the auction. Sundelin was able to play with nearly open cards, however, and did so with panache. Lev's lead of the ♠10 ran to the ace and PO tried a club to create a fluid entry position and set about singling in some trump winners. Mohan won the club and switched to a diamond to the queen and king. Sundelin could win the second diamond with dummy's jack, ruff a club, cross to the ♠K, ruff another club, and cash the ♦Q before exiting with a spade. Mohan, down to nothing but trumps, led the ten, and PO won the queen, emerging with eight tricks: minus 100.

After Lindkvist's three-way 1♣, it was easy for Fallenius to compete in the minors and here too, N/S were pushed to 3♥. Unfortunately for the Swedes, it was attractive for Fallenius to lead a diamond on the auction. Gawrys took two diamonds and ruffed the third, then played ace and another heart, ten, queen, then gave up a spade: plus 110. 6 IMPs to e-bridge, 115-101.

Bd: 51	North
Dlr: South	♠ J103
Vul: E/W	♥ K75
	♦ 42
	♣ AJ542
West	East
♠ 9864	♠ ---
♥ J1032	♥ A986
♦ A108	♦ K9653
♣ K6	♣ 10983
	South
	♠ AKQ752
	♥ Q4
	♦ QJ7
	♣ Q7

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
Pass	2♠	All Pass	1♠

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	1♠

Both sequences are entirely comprehensible, although the danger in passing 2♠ is that game might be a normal contract opposite a fitting raise, such as three kings. The vulnerability made Sundelin's pass a much more attractive action, of course, and even with the maximum North hand, game was no bargain. It was cold, however, so e-bridge won the board, 420 vs 170, gaining 6 IMPs, 115-101.

Bd: 52	North
Dlr: West	♠ Q94
Vul: Both	♥ 1076532
	♦ ---
	♣ A843
West	East
♠ K1073	♠ J62
♥ K8	♥ J94
♦ AJ852	♦ KQ93
♣ K7	♣ J96
	South
	♠ A85
	♥ AQ
	♦ 10764
	♣ Q1052

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
1♦	1♥	2♦	Dble*
3♦	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
1♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

It is not written that you must overcall 1♥, vulnerable, with the North hand, but it is also dangerous to pass. Apparently Sylvan was expecting some heart support when he competed to the three-level, but Sundelin could not know how weak a hand he was facing and

carried on to game. Sylvan lost two trumps and a trick in each black suit for one down: minus 100.

Pszczola waited to enter the auction, but when he did come in on the way out (so to speak), he bought nicely and got the level right. He guessed clubs for plus 140. 6 IMPs to e-bridge, 121-101.

Bd: 53	North		
Dlr: North	♠ A62		
Vul: N/S	♥ AKQ76		
	♦ AK983		
	♣ ---		
West		East	
♠ KJ3		♠ 854	
♥ 2		♥ 98543	
♦ QJ1064		♦ 7	
♣ 9842		♣ AKQJ	
	South		
	♠ Q1097		
	♥ J10		
	♦ 52		
	♣ 107653		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
	1♣(1)	1♥	Pass

2♦ All Pass

(1) 11-13 BAL or any 17+

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
	1♣	1♦(1)	Pass

1♥(2) 2♦ All Pass

(1) Hearts; (2) I'd pass 1♥

When both pairs on one team volunteer to play in the same strain at the same level one of them is bound to be wrong. Lev took five tricks, Pszczola seven. Those four undertricks netted Sweden 250 total points and 6 IMPs, 107-127.

Bd: 54	North		
Dlr: East	♠ AK654		
Vul: E/W	♥ A1095		
	♦ 85		
	♣ 82		
West		East	
♠ 109		♠ Q873	
♥ K83		♥ J4	
♦ AJ43		♦ K976	
♣ Q975		♣ 643	
	South		
	♠ J2		
	♥ Q762		
	♦ Q102		
	♣ AKJ10		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
		Pass	1♣(1)
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣(2)	Pass	2♦(3)
Pass	2♥(4)	Pass	4♥

All Pass

(1) 11-13 BAL or any 17+; (2) Puppet to 2♦
(3) Forced; (4) Invitational

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
		Pass	1♣(1)
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣(2)	Pass	2♦(3)
Pass	2♥(4)	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Polish Club, F1; (2) Puppet to 2♦
(3) Forced; (4) Invitational

Sylvan won the club lead (the MUD four) and tried to ruff a spade. Lev over-ruffed with the ♥8, and Sylvan lost two diamonds and a further heart trick for one down: minus 50.

Lindkvist led the ♣3 (lowest from odd), and Gawrys won the ace, cashed two high spades, determined that both his opponents had given true count, and relied on the club finesse. That led to down two: minus 100. 2 IMPs to Sweden, 109-127.

Bd: 55	North
Dir: South	♠ AQJ2
Vul: Both	♥ AK6
	♦ 73
	♣ AQ87
West	East
♠ K8754	♠ 1096
♥ 104	♥ J973
♦ 962	♦ AJ104
♣ K63	♣ 109
	South
	♠ 3
	♥ Q852
	♦ KQ85
	♣ J542

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦(1)
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT

All Pass

(1) Stayman

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
Pass	1♣(1)	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦(2)	Pass	2♥(3)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT

All Pass

(1) Polish Club, F1; (2) Artificial game force, 3+ hearts; (3) Minimum, four hearts

Sylvan, in the normal 3NT, got the lead of ♠10 from Mohan, who decided to go for "all the diamonds." Here it didn't hurt to stay off the diamond lead; Sylvan was under no pressure and took ten tricks; plus 630.

The Poles were sailing along comfortably until Gawrys tried 3♠. The crux of the matter was the timing of a natural spade bid. Should Pszczola show his spades over the conventional 2♥ or should Gawrys introduce spades over 2NT? Gawrys clearly believed that Pszczola would not hold four spades and that he (Gawrys) could therefore bid the suit without having it misinterpreted as natural. It's possible that in his

view 3♠ had to show a singleton, which would make it the ideal way to deal with 3NT vs a minor suit game or slam. Alas, there was a difference of opinion and the partnership skidded to an undignified halt at 4NT. They were lucky to survive, Pszczola eventually falling back on the spade finesse when hearts did not furnish four tricks.

As our Vugraph analyst Barry Rigal would say: "A sweaty push."

Bd: 56	North
Dir: West	♠ KQ
Vul: None	♥ AKJ7
	♦ AJ2
	♣ K743
West	East
♠ AJ43	♠ 102
♥ Q65	♥ 109843
♦ Q97	♦ K864
♣ A86	♣ 95
	South
	♠ 98765
	♥ 2
	♦ 1053
	♣ QJ102

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
1♣	Dble	1♥	1♠
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
1♣(1)	Dble(2)	Pass	1♦(3)
Pass	1NT(4)	Pass	2♥(5)
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

(1) Three-way 1♣, F1; (2) A Polish 1♣ opening
(3) Negative; (4) 18-20/21; (5) Spades

Two interesting auctions, Sylvan giving his partner maximum leeway, and the Poles staying well within themselves. Very impressive.

Sylvan made three by developing spades after Lev took the first: plus 150. Pszczola made two after the defenders arranged a club ruff: plus 110. 1 IMP to Sweden, 110-127. There were eight boards left to play and neither side had

staked a claim on the match.

Bd: 57	North
Dlr: North	♠ 542
Vul: E/W	♥ 985
	♦ J6
	♣ Q9843
West	East
♠ Q73	♠ A8
♥ AJ4	♥ 10763
♦ K974	♦ AQ852
♣ AJ10	♣ K7
	South
	♠ KJ1096
	♥ KQ2
	♦ 103
	♣ 652

Bd: 58	North
Dlr: East	♠ A3
Vul: Both	♥ AQ832
	♦ 82
	♣ AKQ10
West	East
♠ K4	♠ Q1062
♥ 965	♥ 1074
♦ A653	♦ KJ4
♣ 8743	♣ 965
	South
	♠ J9875
	♥ KJ
	♦ Q1097
	♣ J2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♠(1)	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) Diamonds

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♣(1)	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) Diamonds

Lev made five on a spade lead through the king. Lindkvist made six on the lead of the ♥K. 1 IMP to Sweden, 111-127.



Hey, we know a couple of twins who are looking for dates after the tourney.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣(1)	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
	All Pass		

(1) Three-way 1♣, F1

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣(1)	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥(2)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Polish Club, F1
(2) Strong, with hearts the main suit

Two very thorough auctions brought the pairs to 3NT. Pszczola, fearing that the diamond guard opposite might not be as robust as it proved to be, corrected to 4♥, which yielded ten tricks on a diamond lead and spade switch. In 3NT Sundelin won the club lead in dummy and led a diamond to his queen, which held: plus 660. 1 IMP to Sweden, 112-127.

Would one of these IMPs turn the match?

Bd: 59	North		
Dir: South	♠ J8652		
Vul: None	♥ J103		
	♦ 108		
	♣ Q92		
West		East	
♠ AQ97		♠ K103	
♥ Q74		♥ A6	
♦ 7632		♦ Q5	
♣ J3		♣ A108765	
	South		
	♠ 4		
	♥ K9852		
	♦ AKJ94		
	♣ K4		

Bd: 60	North		
Dir: West	♠ 9876		
Vul: N/S	♥ A10		
	♦ 10		
	♣ KJ6432		
West		East	
♠ AKJ43		♠ Q	
♥ 85		♥ KQ73	
♦ AKQ43		♦ J65	
♣ 8		♣ AQ1097	
	South		
	♠ 1052		
	♥ J9642		
	♦ 9872		
	♣ 5		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
			1♥
Pass	Pass	2♣	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
			1♥
Pass	1NT*	Pass	3♦(1)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Limited; else an artificial 2♣ rebid

Sylvan could afford to pass 1♥, which was limited to 16 points, but it's not clear that this is the best tactical approach. It turned out well when Sundelin was able to buy the contract at 2♥: plus 140.

Pszczola could have passed 1♥ too, but advanced with 1NT to make it tougher for the opponents. Gawrys would have rebid an artificial 2♣ with a hand in the 17/18 range, so his 3♦ showed a sound 5/5 playing hand. I wouldn't recommend this approach with such weak hearts, but with the ♣K becoming the queen-jack the sequence would be picture perfect. Pszczola's 4♥ looks like a wild action but perhaps the proof that is not can be confirmed by the fact that this junk combined to produce nine tricks and would have produced ten with diamonds three-three and the heart honors switched. Minus 50. 5 IMPs to Sweden, 117-127.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
1♣(1)	Pass	1♠(2)	Pass
1NT(3)	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦(3)	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠(3)	Pass	3♦*	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

(1) Three-way 1♣, F1
(2) 4+♥, 8+ HCP, not balanced,
(3) Relay

You can understand all the bids in the natural American auction, but in the end Mohan had to decide whether he had enough in reserve to go on over Lev's invitation. The ♠Q and jack-third of diamonds were positive features, although a higher diamond would have been nice. If he had been certain that Lev would deliver two hearts and one club I think he would have bid the slam. Perhaps a five-level move to keep his options open would have been the best way to proceed. Plus 490.

In contrast, the Swedish auction involved questions and answers, with the strong hand finding out what he needed to know: plus 920.

10 IMPs to Sweden, tying the match at 127 with four deals remaining.

This was as good as it gets. Which can be pretty good.

Bd: 61	North		
Dlr: North	♠ ---		
Vul: Both	♥ AKQ93		
	♦ 542		
	♣ J9852		
West		East	
♠ A1042		♠ KQ98	
♥ J1074		♥ 82	
♦ J109		♦ KQ63	
♣ K4		♣ A73	
	South		
	♠ J7653		
	♥ 65		
	♦ A87		
	♣ Q106		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
	1♥	Dble	1♠
1NT	2♣	Pass	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
	2♥(1)	Dble	2♠(2)
Dble	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

(1) Hearts and another suit, 5/5+
(2) Pass or correct

Both E/W pairs brushed aside the obstruction and finished in spades despite South's "known" length. Lev made four, Fallenius three. 1 IMP to e-bridge, 128-127.



"Curious. 4♠ made at both tables.

Bd: 62	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 52		
Vul: None	♥ J84		
	♦ J1092		
	♣ AK106		
West		East	
♠ AQ63		♠ J84	
♥ K62		♥ Q1093	
♦ K876		♦ Q5	
♣ Q8		♣ 7543	
	South		
	♠ K1097		
	♥ A75		
	♦ A43		
	♣ J92		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
		Pass	1♣(1)
Dble	1NT	All Pass	

(1) 11-13 BAL or any 17+
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
		Pass	1♣(1)
Dble*	1NT	2♥	All Pass

(1) Polish Club, F1

1NT was easy to make, Sylvan managing eight tricks: plus 120. Lindkvist's 2♥ was touch-and-go. Although Gawrys' spade lead blew a trick it led to a spade ruff and declarer was unable to dispose of his fourth club to go one down: minus 50. 2 IMPs to Sweden, ahead now 129-128.



Home Sweet Home

Bd: 63	North
Dlr: South	♠ AQ8764
Vul: N/S	♥ 106
	♦ 7
	♣ J742
West	East
♠ 109	♠ J53
♥ K872	♥ QJ3
♦ Q54	♦ A9832
♣ KQ53	♣ 98
	South
	♠ K2
	♥ A954
	♦ KJ106
	♣ A106

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
			1NT
Pass	2♥(1)	Pass	2♠

All Pass

(1) 5+♠, at least invitational

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
			1NT
Pass	4♥(1)	Pass	4♠

All Pass

(1) Spades

Opposite a 14-16 notrump, Sylvan settled for a game invitation, which he showed by transferring. Sundelin's 2♠ was a rejection, usually with only two spades.

Opposite a 15-17 notrump, Pszczola did the normal thing, bashing 4♠ via a Texas transfer.

Although 4♠ is not a superb contract it falls into the category of normal games you'd like to be in if the other guys are going to bid it. Thus the one-point difference in the minimum parameter for the two pairs' notrump openings should not be given such great significance. Just one man's opinion, but it's a big issue. Isn't it

Sundelin got a trump lead, won the ace, and misguessed diamonds. The accurate heart switch from Lev led to PO taking the ruffing finesse in diamonds to discard a heart from

dummy. He had to lose two clubs and so made only nine tricks: plus 140. Well judged.

No cigar, however. Fallenius led the ♣K against Gawrys' 4♠: plus 650 when Fallenius did not attack hearts and Lindkvist went up with the ♦A. It's an imperfect world, which is why cutting it fine on deals like this one is such a dangerous way to approach the game.

11 IMPs to e-bridge, back in front, 139-129, with one last chance coming up...

Bd: 64	North
Dlr: West	♠ K3
Vul: E/W	♥ AK8
	♦ AJ765
	♣ J107
West	East
♠ J	♠ A10952
♥ 107642	♥ 93
♦ KQ83	♦ 92
♣ Q65	♣ A943
	South
	♠ Q8764
	♥ QJ5
	♦ 104
	♣ K82

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Sylvan	Mohan	Sundelin
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥(1)
Pass	2NT(2)	Pass	3NT

All Pass

(1) 5+♠, at least invitational

(2) Maximum

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Pszczola	Lindkvist	Gawrys
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥(1)
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT

All Pass

(1) Spades

Amazingly, the same sort of deal presented itself immediately, almost as if a chance for redemption were being offered. And even more amazingly, the potential game was again vulnerable, but this time it was the Swedes who attempted game while the Poles did not. Again,

it was the vagaries of notrump range that played a role, although it looks as if Sundelin was really looking for a miracle by moving forward with a junky eight-count opposite a 16-point maximum. He was right to do so, however, as this was indeed his chance to win the match.

Against Pszczola's 2NT, Lindkvist led a club, ducked to the queen, and a second club went to the ace, Pszczola unblocking the king to win the third club in hand. A diamond to the ten lost to the queen and the ♠J went to the king and ace and after taking his club winner, Lindkvist switched to the ♥9. There was no way for Pszczola to get home: minus 50.

The defense started the same way against Sylvan's 3NT and here too a diamond was led to the ten and queen. Lev switched to a heart, however, and Sylvan won in dummy to lead a diamond to the jack. He cleared diamonds and Lev put Mohan in with the ♠A to cash his club. Down two: minus 100. 2 IMPs to e-bridge.

The score in the final set was 33-28 for e-bridge, who won the match, 141-129.

Sam Lev/John Mohan, Piotr Gawrys/Jacek Pszczola, with Pinhas Romik as npc were the 2001 NEC Cup Champions.

And finally,...a picture which needs no caption.

