

# NEC Bridge Festival

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Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

## Russia is the 2013 NEC Cup Champion

The Russians have come close to winning the NEC before (Andrey Gromov and Alexander Dubinin lost narrowly in 2005 and 2007) but the long wait for revenge is over. They more than made up for past defeats in one of the most comprehensive victories ever in the NEC. After 48 boards Gromov and Dubinin, playing with Sjoert Brink, Mikhail Krasnosselski and Evgeny Gladyshev, annihilated Team Mixed (Reese Milner, Hemant Lall, Sabine Auken, Roy Welland, Jacek Pszczola, Michael Kwiecien) who themselves had been playing like champions to this point in the event. The finals went only 48 boards, Mixed withdrawing after trailing 153-53. In the last two days of the KO the Russians had conceded less than 1.5imps per board. Curiously, the match was level towards the end of the first quarter (at 34-34), when the Russians went on a tear. If they can maintain this sort of form, we expect to see them going on to even greater things at the world level, and very soon.



2013 NEC Cup Champions: Russia



2013 NEC Cup Runners Up: Mixed



### NEC Cup Final: Quarter-by-Quarter Results

Team	C/O	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Final
Russia	.5	48	47	58		153
Mixed		37	9	7	W/D	53



For the results of the Saturday Pair Games and Yokohama Swiss see pages 3-4

# Convention Regulations for Side (Pair) Games

*(An explanation for foreign players)*

Unlike the NEC Cup, which is an international event, and the Yokohama Swiss Teams, in which all non-brown-sticker conventions are permitted, the Yokohama IMP Pairs and Asuka Cup are rated as Japanese regional or national events, for which JCBL regulations for domestic events apply strictly. We ask for your compliance with the regulations explained below. If you have any questions about what is allowed, please ask the JCBL staff. Please note that use of unauthorized conventions may be penalized. We thank you for your cooperation.

All side games at the NEC Bridge Festival (the Yokohama IMP Pairs and Asuka Cup) are restricted to "List C" conventions as described below. The use of the Multi-2♦ is strictly prohibited and will be subject to penalty.

## LIST C (Yokohama IMP Pairs/Asuka Cup)

### Opening Bids

1. 1♣ or 1♦ may be used as an all-purpose opening bid (artificial or natural) promising a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g.: Precision 1♣ and 1♦; Polish 1♣, etc.)
2. 2♣ artificial opening bid indicating one of:
  - a) a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
  - b) a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
3. 2♦ artificial opening bid showing one of:
  - a) at least 5-4 distribution in the majors with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Flannery, anti-Flannery etc.)
  - b) a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
  - c) a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
4. Opening suit bid at the two level or higher indicating the bid suit, another known suit, a minimum of 10 HCP and at least 5-4 distribution in the suits.
5. Opening notrump bid at the two level or higher indicating at least 5-4 distribution in the minors, 10 or more HCP.
6. Opening 3NT bid indicating:
  - a) any solid suit or
  - b) a broken minor suit.
7. Opening four-level bid transferring to a known suit (e.g., Namyats, etc.).
8. Strong opening at the two level or higher, asking Ace, King, Queen, singleton, void, trump quality.

### Responses and Rebids

1. 1♦ as a forcing, artificial response to 1♣.
2. 1NT response to a major-suit opening bid, forcing for one round; may not guarantee game invitational or better values.
3. Conventional responses which guarantee game forcing or better values. May not be part of a relay system.
4. 2♣ or 2♦ response to 3<sup>rd</sup>- or 4<sup>th</sup>-seat major-suit opener asking the quality of the opening bid.
5. Single or higher jump shifts (including into notrump) to indicate a raise or to force to game.
6. All responses to;
  - a) artificial strong opening bids with 15 HCP or more.
  - b) opening bids of 2♣ or higher (weak 2s must guarantee 10 opening points: opening points=HCP + number of cards in longest suit).

7. All constructive calls starting with the opening bidder's second call.
8. Calls that ask for aces, kings, queens, singletons, voids, trump quality and responses thereto.
9. All calls after a natural notrump (including those that have two non-consecutive ranges, neither of which exceeds 3 HCP). No conventional responses are allowed over natural notrump bids with a lower limit of fewer than 10 HCP or with a range of greater than 5 HCP.

### Competitive Bids

1. Any conventional balancing calls.
2. Conventional doubles and redoubles and responses (including free bids) thereto.
3. Notrump overcall for either:
  - a) two-suited takeout showing at least 5-4 distribution and at least one known suit. (At the 4 level or higher there is no requirement to have a known suit.)
  - b) three-suited takeout (as with a takeout double, at least 3 cards in each of the 3 suits).
4. Jump overcalls into a suit to indicate at least 5-4 distribution in two known suits, and responses thereto.
5. Cuebid of an opponent's suit and responses thereto, except that a cuebid that could be weak, directly over an opening bid, must show at least one known suit.
6. Comic 1NT overcall.
7. Defense to:
  - a) conventional calls (including takeout doubles).
  - b) natural notrump opening bids and overcalls.
  - c) opening bids of 2♣ or higher.
8. Nos. 5 through 9 under "Responses and Rebids" above apply to both pairs.
9. Transfer overcall to show a specified suit at the four level.

### Carding

1. All leads and signaling methods are approved except for: a) odd-even signals, b) encrypted signals, c) dual-message carding strategies, except on each defender's first discard, d) any method when the pair using it are deemed to be playing it in a manner which is not compatible with the maintenance of proper tempo.

## LIST D (NEC Cup/Yokohama Swiss Teams)

Category 3 of WBF Systems Policy applies

## Beginners Cup (under 20 MP) — 22 pairs

Rank	Names		Score
NS1	Yuji Kodama	Kenji Otani	363
NS2	Yoko Ito	Yumi Yamane	177
NS3	Yuji Iwadate	Fumiko Iwadate	128
NS4	Yoshio Tani	Shigeko Goto	42
EW1	Shizue Taruzaki	Miyuki Nagano	334
EW2	Yasuhiko Terasawa	Junko Maruyama	260
EW3	Shoji Maruyama	Kazuko Yoshida	126
EW4	Reiko Sano	Keiko Yamamoto	19



Yuji Kodama–Kenji Otani

## Beginners Cup (under 5 MP) — 30 pairs

Rank	Names		Score
NS1	Kimi Kobayashi	Eiko Horiike	472
NS2	Toshiaki Kawai	Keiko Takanuki	385
NS3	Yukiko Banzai	Kazuko Morita	308
NS4	Kyoko Kawauchi	Shinichi Miyake	236
NS5	Mieko Taniyama	Yuri Matsukawa	233
NS6	Kazuo Watanabe	Kaori Nishida	218
EW1	Yoko Hosokawa	Toshio Hosokawa	512
EW2	Hideo Hayashi	Makoto Oyama	408
EW3	Takahiro Shirasaki	Kyoko Nakashima	198
EW4	Hiroko Aoki	Ikuko Tsunoda	193
EW5	Itaru Watanabe	Hiroshi Saito	181



Toshio & Yoko Hosokawa

## Debutante Cup — 15 pairs

Rank	Names		Score
NS1	Iku Aikzawa	Mio Minami	56
NS2	Kazumi Nakagawa	Yumiko Tokkaku	52.5
NS3/4	Tiduru Ishimura	Hiromi Hashimoto	49
NS3/4	Toru Morioka	Sadako Ueda	49
EW1	Keiko Baba	Yoshiko Yamazaki	60.57
EW2	Masako Toda	Masako Yoshida	54.29
EW3	Tomono Kaneshiro	Isae Takahashi	54.29
EW4	Haruko Kimura	Utako Tomoeda	53.71



Keiko Baba–Yoshiko Yamazaki

## Team Rosters: 18<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup

#	Team Name	Members
1	NEDUK:	David Bakhshi, David Gold, Jan Jansma, Ricco van Prooijen
2	Russia:	Andrey Gromov, Evgeny Gladyshev, Alexander Dubinin, Mikhail Krasnosselski, Sebastiaan Drijver, Sjoert Brink
3	Mixed:	Reese Milner, Hemant Lall, Sabine Auken, Roy Welland, Michael Kwiecien, Jacek Pszczola
4	Pharon:	Paul Hackett, Tom Hanlon, Jason Hackett, Justin Hackett
5	USA:	Curtis Cheek, Joe Grue, Justin Lall, Ishmael Del'Monte
6	Down Under:	Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Peter Gill, Martin Reid, Peter Newell
7	Australia Youth:	Justin Howard, Peter Hollands, Michael Whibley, Liam Milne
8	England:	Sandra Penfold, Brian Senior, Nevena Senior, Roumen Trendafilov

## Yokohama Swiss Teams: Final Standings



Yokohama Swiss 2<sup>nd</sup> Place



Yokohama Swiss Winners



Yokohama Swiss 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Rank	VP Total	Team	Team Members
1	112.94	SARA	Tadashi Teramoto, Kumiko Sasahira, Masayuki Ino, Shugo Tanaka, Takeshi Niekawa
2	111.74	MIYAKUNI	Kenji Miyakuni, Yukiko Tokunaga, Sakiko Naito, Ayako Miyakuni
3	110.55	NEDUK	David Bakhshi, David Gold, Jan Jansma, Ricco van Prooijen
4	109.61	MIURA	Hiroaki Miura, Keiko Enomoto, Kazuko Tsumori, Katsumi Takahashi
5	105.23	FOOTerz	Ryo Okuno, Akira Ohara, Hideki Takano, Fu Zhong
6	101.90	Yeh Bros	Chen Yeh, JY Shih, Chen Dawei, Kazuo Furuta, Patrick Huang, Grace Lin
7	101.79	England	Sandra Penfold, Brian Senior, Nevena Senior, Roumen Trendafilov
8	100.96	Down Under	Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Peter Gill, Martin Reid, Peter Newell
9	100.32	Bulgarian All Stars	Vladislav Isporski, Valio Kovachev, Hristo Hristov, Manol Iliev
10	99.79	India	Subhash Gupta, Arun Jain, Manas Mukherji, Sumit Mukherji, Subir Majumdar, Debrata Majumdar
11	98.39	Yamada	Kyoko Ohno, Akihiko Yamada, Makoto Hirata, Tadashi Yoshida
12	96.36	Nishimura	Teruko Nishimura, Junko Nishimura, John Kranyak, Vincent Dumoy, Joel Wooldridge
13	95.80	YOKOI	Hiroki Yokoi, Fumi Tanaka, Minoru Mizuta, Daisuke Sugimoto
14	94.08	ONO	Michiko Ono, Kazuko Banno, Fumiko Kimura, Minako Takahashi
15	93.05	PolUS	Michale Nowosadzki, Dominik Fillpowicz, Jacek Kalita, Jessica Piafsky
16	91.84	SATU	Mari Mitani, Eriko Ito, Shoko Imai, Toshiko Sumikoshi
17	89.97	Oz Players	Ron Klinger, Matt Mullamphy, Bill Jacobs, Ben Tompson
18	87.65	Morimura	Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Shunsuke Morimura, Takahiko Hirata, Tadashi Imakura, Noriko Domichi
19	86.56	2KI	Yasuyo Iida, Atsuko Katsumata, Kimiko Kamakari, Misae Kato
20	85.94	TAKAMI	Noriko Takami, Harue Iemori, Reiko Hoshika, Kimiyo Nakamoto
21	85.84	DOVES	Keiko Matsuzaki, Kimi Makita, Yukiko Umezu, Etsuko Naito
22	84.88	SAKURAI	Tsuneo Sakurai, Atsushi Kikuchi, Shuji Hashimoto, Seijiyo Yajima
23	83.86	TAN	Mizuko Tan, Hiroko Sekiyama, Mieko Nakanishi, Masakatsu Sugino
24	83.18	Korea/Japan	Akiko Kawabata, Kenichi Asaoka, Kim YoonYang, Park JungYoon
25	83.06	Asakoshi	Kotomi Asakoshi, Curtis Cheek, Joe Grue, Justin Lall, Ishmael Del'Monte
26	82.87	Thailand/Japan	Nophanai Niyomchoke, Arnond Rotrugsa, Tadahiro Kikuchi, Takahiro Honda
27	81.85	TAMURA	Emiko Tamura, Noriko Iguchi, Aoe Kimura, Atsuko Fukushima
28	79.85	Sacrifice	Masayuki Hayasaka, Toshiko Kaho, Katsuhiko Ueki, Soichi Arakawa
29	79.74	MATSUBARA	Nobuko Matsubara, Sachiko Yamamura, Michiko Iwahashi, Hideyuki Sango
30	79.40	Sakuragumi	Hisako Takei, Setsuko Ono, Taeko Ishihara, Miwako Hayashi
31	79.20	KOSAKA	Yasuko Kosaka, Li Bin, Toshihiro Ogata, Kyoko Sengoku
32	78.03	SHIGA	Hiroyuki Taguchi, Motoaki Shiga, Toru Henmi, Hideko Takeuchi
33	76.06	Australia/India	Magnus Moren, Neville Francis, Pranjali Chakradeo, Ajit Chakradeo
34	75.84	Sir Frider	Chieko Ichikawa, Kuniko Saito, Junko Den, Atsuko Kurita
35	75.37	YAMASHIRO	Junko Yamashiro, Yoko Shimominami, Chie Fujita, Kayoko Miyabe
36	74.85	DOI	Tomoko Doi, Fumie Asukata, Mitsuaki Wada, Koichiro Yoshizumi
37	74.22	SADAKO	Ryoga Tanaka, Sadako Nakajima, Yukiko Hoshi, Tomoyuki Harada
38	73.65	KIMOTO	Setsu Kimoto, Makoto Wakabayashi, Nobuyuki Matsuzawa, Setsuko Matsuzawa
39	71.56	Japan Ladies	Kyoko Shimamura, Makiko Sato, Michiko Ono, Natsuko Nishida, Yuki Fukuyoshi, Akiko Yanagisawa
40	71.09	LANDOLT	Kyoko Kadono, Katsuko Miyake, Takumi Seshimo, Toru Amano
41	70.79	TASK	Noriko Akira, Kunihiro Takahashi, Chiaki Sakamoto, Hideko Kobayashi
42	70.70	KODAIRA	Kunio Kodaira, Makoto Nomura, Teruo Miyazaki, Akiko Miwa
43	70.68	Road Runner	Yoko Fukuyama, Takashi Sumita, Hisako Kondo, Sachiko Ueda
44	70.37	PM 205	Ying Xiaoying, Sue Grenside, Sachio Uenaka
45	70.28	NAKATANI	Takako Nakatani, Kazuko Okamoto, Junko Tsubaki, Akiko Miyata
46	67.26	Misotoma	Mayumi Katagiri, Soyoko Yamamoto, Kumiko Oya, Mitsuko Yoshioka
47	66.62	Some-chan	Hiroko Tanaka, Shoko Somemiya, Yumiko Ishibashi, Yumiko Kawakami
48	64.92	Lee -	Keisuke Akama, Lee Bokk Hee, Tana Cho, Kim Sun Young
49	64.86	SAKABE	Fumiko Sakabe, Taro Shibuya, Kazuko Nakagawa, Yoko Yamazaki
50	63.27	Hammer	Sung Kyung Hae, Hwang Iyn Ryung, Chung Il Sub, Yang Sung Ae
51	62.96	FUJIMOTO	Takako Fujimoto, Kazuko Takahashi, Sumiko Sugino, Tsubasa Yamaguchi
52	61.88	ESPERANZA	Haruko Koshi, Yoko Oosako, Misuzu Ichihashi, Sachiko Yamada
53	59.66	Beauchamp	Bruce Neill, Kim Morrison, Nathan van Jole, David Beauchamp, Michael Ware, Simon Hinge
54	58.24	OTANI	Yukiko Otani, Kyoko Miura, Yoko Komuro, Shimako Yaji
55	57.55	KinKi	Sonoko Namba, Chizuko Sugiura, Toru Tamura, Mimako Ishizuka
56	57.30	White Lady	Kazuko Kawashima, Yoko Tokushige, Yoshiko Fukuda, Aiko Mizuuchi
57	57.22	AKAYAMA	Yukiko Akayama, Masako Otsuka, Naoko Hishikawa, Kosuke Ito
58	56.01	KURACHI	Yoshinori Kurachi, Kazuo Saeki, Ervin Otvosi, Hiroko Janssen
59	54.89	Konkura-be	Itsuko Sawada, Mutsue Kokubo, Noriyuki Okamoto
60	45.67	SHIMIZU	Shizuyo Nakagawa, Mari Sou, Yoko Kato, Chikayo Miyako

# NEC Final (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter): Russia vs Mixed

by Barry Rigal



Milner



Gromov



Dubinin



Lall



Brink



Pszczola



Kwecien



Gladysz

For this set both E/W pairs will be playing standard. N/S for Russia play Precision with a 12-15 (15-17 in 3-4) notrump. For Mixed Pepsi-Quicken play Polish Club but closer to 2/1 in non-club auctions.

Bd: 1  
 Dlr: North  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ 9875  
 ♥ 1097  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ A10973

West  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ AJ64  
 ♦ J654  
 ♣ Q542

East  
 ♠ AJ102  
 ♥ KQ52  
 ♦ KQ  
 ♣ J86

South  
 ♠ KQ43  
 ♥ 83  
 ♦ A109732  
 ♣ K

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milner</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
	Pass	1NT	2♦(1)
Dbl	Rdbl	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

(1) Diamonds plus a major

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Gladysz</i>	<i>Kwecien</i>
	Pass	1NT	Dbl(1)
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	2♦
Dbl	Rdbl	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

(1) Minor and a major

The action started immediately on a deal where both N/S pairs were prepared to commit to playing 2♠ and both Easts were prepared to up the ante. But would West be able to stand the pressure? Brink wasn't, Milner was.

In 2♠x Milner sensibly led a trump to the nine and Lall played king and another heart. Milner tried to cash a third heart so declarer ruffed, played ace and

another diamond, ruffed, came to the ♣K, led and passed the ♦10, and was now able to claim eight tricks, losing three trumps and two hearts. There is no defense to 2♠x, even after a trump lead, since if East cashes two hearts and plays a low spade declarer can survive going up with the king by taking the ruffing finesse in diamonds at the appropriate moment.

Given that result, the number of tricks taken in 3NT was almost irrelevant. Against 3NT Kwecien led the ♠Q (a strong QJ or weak KQ suit) and Gladysz took the ace as Pszczola followed with a descriptive ♠9. Declarer knocked out the ♣K and Kwecien refused to play his partner for the precise spade spots he needed to set the game. A low spade back would have developed the extra tricks (and would have cost nothing since if partner didn't follow with the five he could change tack later). Kwecien shifted to a heart and now declarer could set up diamonds, then knock out the ♣K and come home. That misdefense to a game only cost 4 imps (13 instead of 9) but I doubt if that made Pszczola any happier; 13-0, Russia.

Bd: 2  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ A532  
 ♥ K103  
 ♦ Q10  
 ♣ KJ84

West  
 ♠ J7  
 ♥ A97  
 ♦ J9875  
 ♣ A95

East  
 ♠ KQ864  
 ♥ QJ65  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ Q72

South  
 ♠ 109  
 ♥ 842  
 ♦ AK642  
 ♣ 1063

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milner</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♦(2+)	1♠	2♦
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Gladysz</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
		1♠	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Gladysz's combination of opening 1♠ and passing 1NT looks very surprising to me, but on a club lead Brink played low from dummy, won in hand, and then set up spades. Pszczola won the third and led a low club. Declarer put up the queen, then cashed out and wisely rejected the heart finesse.

Might Lall have doubled 2♦ if it hadn't been for the result on the first deal? I do not know, perhaps not with such poor defense. Against 2♠ Dubinin led a top diamond and shifted to a club. Gromov won his king and returned a diamond, ruffed by Lall, who played the ♠Q and a spade to the jack, both ducked. Now Lall changed tack, winning the ♣Q, ♣A, ruffing a diamond, going to the ♥A, then ruffing another diamond to score five trump tricks, two clubs, and one heart for +110 and 1 imp. 13-1 now, Russia.

Bd: 3	North
Dlr: South	♠ KQ762
Vul: E/W	♥ 9
	♦ 1072
	♣ 10983

West	East
♠ J109843	♠ 5
♥ Q1043	♥ KJ75
♦ K9	♦ AQ6
♣ J	♣ AK762
	South
	♠ A
	♥ A862
	♦ J8543
	♣ Q54

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milner</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
		1♦	
1♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Gladysz</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♠	Dbl	Rdbl
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

If I were Pszczola and had opened 1♠ in third seat I would have been very happy to hear my opponents stop in 2♥ — till I came to score up. 4♥ looks easy enough to make, even on ace and another trump (five trumps and five minor-suit winners). Brink played 2♥ extremely carefully to protect against bad breaks and did not score one of the top clubs, so he emerged with +140. But that was still worth 8 imps when Lall's precipitous leap to 3NT saw him land in an inelegant spot. The defenders led the ♠A and shifted to hearts, but declarer did not have time to establish a spade or a club before the defenders could get five tricks in.

E/W continued to have problems on the next deal.

Bd: 4	North
Dlr: West	♠ J
Vul: Both	♥ KQJ52
	♦ K42
	♣ KJ85

West	East
♠ 1052	♠ AK98
♥ 1098763	♥ A4
♦ 876	♦ 1095
♣ 7	♣ Q1043
	South
	♠ Q7643
	♥ ---
	♦ AQJ3
	♣ A962

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Milner</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Gladysz</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
Pass	1♥	Dbl	Rdbl
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

The (almost identical) defense was both professional and elegant in each room. North led a trump, won the first club, led the ♥K through to ruff out the ace, and South shifted to a low trump. Declarer ruffed a club for his third trick and tried to score both of dummy's trumps, but South was able to discard all his losers on the run of hearts and be poised over dummy at trick 12 with the ♠Q7 when North led a plain card through the king-nine of spades. Very nicely done, for no swing at 800.

Bd: 5	North
Dlr: North	♠ K8642
Vul: N/S	♥ A
	♦ A2
	♣ KQJ96

West	East
♠ Q107	♠ J95
♥ KJ5	♥ Q1087
♦ Q754	♦ KJ109
♣ A87	♣ 105
	South
	♠ A3
	♥ 96432
	♦ 863
	♣ 432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milner</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Gladysz</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣(1)	Pass	3♦(R)
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			
(1) GF ♠+♣/♥			

4♠ isn't the worst contract you've ever seen, but if you were doubled there you would not be a happy camper. Pszczola showed a game-forcing two-suiter and Kwiecien, knowing he was facing spades and clubs and that he had no red-suit tricks, judged not to pass 3NT, leaving Pepsi to bring home the bacon in 4♠. With both spades and clubs behaving there was no defense to the game, but equally 5♣ might have had as many chances and been able to survive the occasional bad break. 2♣ made +150 painlessly, so Mixed had their first imps, to trail 21-10.

Bd: 6  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ AJ7  
 ♥ QJ10  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ J87542

West  
 ♠ 8532  
 ♥ 52  
 ♦ K10876  
 ♣ A9

East  
 ♠ KQ964  
 ♥ A74  
 ♦ Q42  
 ♣ KQ

South  
 ♠ 10  
 ♥ K9863  
 ♦ AJ53  
 ♣ 1063

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milner</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
		1NT	2♦(♦+M)

Pass 2♥(p/c) All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Gladysz</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
		1NT	Pass

2♣ Pass 2♠ Pass  
 4♠ All Pass

Against 4♠ the defenders led clubs. Declarer won in dummy, then led a trump to hand and ducked a heart. Pszczola won and took his diamond ruff for down one. A good result? Yes, but Dubinin's overcall to show diamonds and a major worked spectacularly well to silence both West and East (though maybe East should risk 2♠ over the 2♥ non-forcing relay). The defenders led the ♣K. Milner quite reasonably overtook and continued the suit. Lall played the ♠A and a few seconds later declarer was claiming +170. Easy game, bridge.

Bd: 7  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ A  
 ♥ AQ42  
 ♦ 9875  
 ♣ 6432

West  
 ♠ Q2  
 ♥ 106  
 ♦ AKQJ63  
 ♣ K75

East  
 ♠ J10987654  
 ♥ 9853  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ ---

South  
 ♠ K3  
 ♥ KJ7  
 ♦ 102  
 ♣ AQJ1098

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milner</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>

2♦ Dbl 2♠ 3♣  
 3NT 4♠ Pass 5♣

Dbl All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Gladysz</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>

1NT Dbl 4♠ Dbl  
 All Pass

5♣x by South lost the first two diamond tricks and when Dubinin ruffed the third diamond he laid down the ♣A and conceded down one. 4♠x saw Gladysz buy a somewhat worse dummy than he might have thought he had a right to expect. But at least the diamond lead gave him some quick tricks. Pszczola followed with the 9, 8 and 5 on the diamonds though. Kwiecien ruffed the third and needed to play ♥K and a heart for his partner to lead the fourth diamond. Was it possible declarer was 7-2-1-3 with near a Yarborough? I don't think so, and Pszczola surely would not have followed that way in diamonds if that were so. Be that as it may, Kwiecien played the ♣A next and declarer could ruff and play a trump and get out for down one. This only cost 3 imps (a net +400 instead of +700) but I doubt that made Pszczola feel any better about it.

Bd: 8  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ AJ87  
 ♥ 8  
 ♦ J953  
 ♣ KQJ3

West  
 ♠ K92  
 ♥ KQJ5432  
 ♦ AK10  
 ♣ ---

East  
 ♠ Q63  
 ♥ A7  
 ♦ Q86  
 ♣ A10862

South  
 ♠ 1054  
 ♥ 1096  
 ♦ 742  
 ♣ 9754

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milner</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>

1♥ Dbl Rdbl 1♠  
 4♥ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Gladysz</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>

1♥ Dbl 3NT Pass  
 4♥ All Pass

Both Wests take more than a measure of blame for not reaching this extremely hard slam. But just because it is hard to get there is no reason to abnegate responsibility for trying to reach it. Gladysz's 3NT was intended to suggest scattered honors and moderate heart tolerance. My best guess as West would be 6♥, but 5♥ might have gotten him there, while a void-showing 5♣ probably would not.

In the other room Milner might have jumped to 4♣. I'd play 5♣ as exclusion and 4♣ as shortness, typically a singleton, not a void. It would still be hard, the hands fit so perfectly. No swing; 23-20, Russia.

Bd: 9  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ A4  
 ♥ Q1087  
 ♦ KJ952  
 ♣ 43

West  
 ♠ J1082  
 ♥ KJ65  
 ♦ 64  
 ♣ KQ8

East  
 ♠ K5  
 ♥ 432  
 ♦ AQ3  
 ♣ A10952

South  
 ♠ Q9763  
 ♥ A9  
 ♦ 1087  
 ♣ J76

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milner</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Gladysz</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
	Pass	1♣	1♠
Dbl	Rdbl	2♣	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

I'm somewhat surprised by Gladysz's 2♣ bid here; it looks far closer to a 1NT rebid to me. Brink raised to 3♣ with something in hand, and there the matter rested. After a spade to the ace and a diamond shift, declarer finessed, drew two rounds of trumps, ruffed his diamond loser, then came to the ♠K and drew the last trump. At this point the finesse for the ♥K looks rather more than 100 percent but declarer led a heart to the jack and scored +130. In the other room Lall received a spade lead and a shift to a low diamond (the ♦J might have given declarer a more interesting problem), which he ducked to South. He won the next diamond and set up a long spade for his ninth trick and an imp, to make it 23-21, Russia.

The next deal was flat, but Russia arguably had the edge in the auction.

Bd: 10  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ 82  
 ♥ A9874  
 ♦ 92  
 ♣ KQ97

West  
 ♠ K103  
 ♥ J5  
 ♦ QJ765  
 ♣ J83

East  
 ♠ QJ64  
 ♥ K3  
 ♦ AK108  
 ♣ A54

South  
 ♠ A975  
 ♥ Q1062  
 ♦ 43  
 ♣ 1062

Lall reached 3NT after a Stayman auction that tipped off South to his holding spades. In the other room Kwiecien had to choose between the majors on a blind lead. The heart lead would be the standard expert choice, and equally it is routine technique for South to unblock the queen under the king, as duly happened at both tables. No swing. Equally, though, there is no such thing as a foolproof defense; if you find one, nature will invent a better fool.

Bd: 11  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ QJ4  
 ♥ AKJ5  
 ♦ J109  
 ♣ A73

West  
 ♠ K8  
 ♥ Q9  
 ♦ AK832  
 ♣ 9654

East  
 ♠ A109762  
 ♥ 84  
 ♦ 75  
 ♣ J108

South  
 ♠ 53  
 ♥ 107632  
 ♦ Q64  
 ♣ KQ2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milner</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
			Pass
1♦	Dbl	2♠(Weak)	Dbl
3♥	Dbl	4♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Gladysz</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
			Pass
1♦	Dbl	2♠(Weak)	3♥
3♠	4♥	All Pass	

Milner improvised a 3♥ bid, intending it as a spade raise, but perhaps a simple 3♠ might have better described his values and been less likely to cause confusion. It worked well to keep his opponents from doubling 4♠, but both Mixed partnerships had done way too much in the auction (though South looks blameless) and 6 imps was cheap at the price when 4♠ lost the obvious six tricks while 4♥ escaped for down two when the defenders couldn't find the trump promotion after three rounds of diamonds. 29-21 now for Russia.

Bd: 12  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ A  
 ♥ 76432  
 ♦ K8763  
 ♣ A8

West  
 ♠ 10965  
 ♥ Q10  
 ♦ 954  
 ♣ K1065

East  
 ♠ J  
 ♥ AKJ85  
 ♦ AQJ10  
 ♣ 974

South  
 ♠ KQ87432  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ QJ32



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milner</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Gladysz</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Kwiecien went after the vulnerable game; Dubinin allowed discretion to rule him and he was absolutely right, today. With spades 4-1 and the ♦A badly placed, eight tricks were the limit for N/S in spades. Gladysz led a diamond (ducked in dummy) to Brink for the trump shift. When the 4-1 trump break came to light, declarer needed a minor miracle in trumps, which was not forthcoming. Since 2♠ made eight tricks on a club lead without any special problems, Russia had 5 imps to lead 34-21.

Bd: 13	North
Dlr: North	♠ 63
Vul: Both	♥ Q1052
	♦ A1096
	♣ J102

West
♠ KQJ52
♥ 3
♦ KQ87
♣ K84

East
♠ A98
♥ AJ84
♦ 32
♣ AQ96

South
♠ 1074
♥ K976
♦ J54
♣ 753

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milner</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Gladysz</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Milner's sequence was efficient and well thought out; Gladysz's...not so much. Slam is not laydown for E/W but on a trump lead, for example, even if the ♦A is offside declarer can still hope to survive any time clubs behave or there is a minor-suit squeeze. I'd guess it must be around 75 percent. In fact, after a heart lead declarer played on diamonds, got a trump shift to the nine, ten and jack, ruffed two diamonds in his hand, and did not need any suit to break. 13 imps to Mixed, leveling the match at 34-34.

On the next deal which red suit you would lead as West against 3NT after South opens 1NT and North's Stayman enquiry comes up empty?

Bd: 14	North
Dlr: East	♠ Q72
Vul: None	♥ 9732
	♦ J10
	♣ AK83

West
♠ J4
♥ J864
♦ Q987
♣ 1064

East
♠ 98653
♥ A10
♦ A43
♣ Q97

South
♠ AK10
♥ KQ5
♦ K652
♣ J52

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milner</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
		Pass	1♣(16+)
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Gladysz</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Brink led a diamond to the ace, scored the queen on a diamond back, then helpfully shifted to hearts. Gladysz won the ace and went back to diamonds, squeezing dummy. Kwiecien guessed to pitch a club and then tested the hearts, getting the bad news. Since it was no longer possible to establish the fourth club, Kwiecien needed to drop the ♣Q or endplay one of his opponents to lead away from the queen, which as the cards lie does not work. Down one.

To my mind, pitching a club from dummy at trick 4 has to be wrong. West's heart shift is far more likely to be from jack-fourth than jack-third, meaning a heart discard rates to be right. But in any event declarer could have preserved all his options by pitching a *spade* and then trying to duck a club to East, which would work as the cards lie. Even if East wins the club and returns a spade you can still come home when either rounded suit breaks 3-3.

In the Open Room Gromov was in even worse shape on a spade lead. He rose king and ingeniously led a diamond to his jack, holding the trick. Now he played a heart up, came back to hand in clubs, and led a second heart up. When Lall won to play a second spade Gromov won in dummy, ducked a club, and had nine tricks. An extremely well-earned 10 imps making it 44-34, Russia.



Bd: 15  
 Dlr: South  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ AK9  
 ♥ 87  
 ♦ J98752  
 ♣ K9

West  
 ♠ 8765  
 ♥ 105  
 ♦ A3  
 ♣ QJ832

South  
 ♠ J103  
 ♥ AQJ93  
 ♦ K106  
 ♣ 105

East  
 ♠ Q42  
 ♥ K642  
 ♦ Q4  
 ♣ A764

Bd: 16  
 Dlr: West  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ K54  
 ♥ 106  
 ♦ Q106  
 ♣ Q10874

West  
 ♠ 97  
 ♥ AQJ52  
 ♦ K542  
 ♣ J2

South  
 ♠ J10  
 ♥ K987  
 ♦ AJ9  
 ♣ AK93

East  
 ♠ AQ8632  
 ♥ 43  
 ♦ 873  
 ♣ 65

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubin
Brink	Pszczola	Gladysz	Kwiecien
			1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣(2+)
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubin
1♥	Pass	1♠	1NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Pszczola	Gladysz	Kwiecien
1♥	Pass	1♠	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both tables maneuvered their way to 2NT when a diamond partial would have been somewhat easier, and both Easts led a spade. The declarers won in hand and played on diamonds, Gromov leading a diamond to the king, Pszczola leading the ♦J, in case East wanted to cover. When Gladysz yielded to temptation Pszczola had cleared the first hurdle, but the defenders could still cash out the clubs for one down. Nonetheless, a 3 imp pick-up for Mixed, down 37-44.

Kwiecien's 3NT was a heavy favorite on the ♥Q lead. He needed either the diamond finesse to work or one of the spade honors to be with the opening bidder, plus a good guess. Not today, though. With all three cards wrong the defenders had no trouble cashing out. That was worth 4 imps to Russia when Milner led a spade against 1NT and Lall ducked, leaving declarer to cash his seven winners and go home. It was 48-34 at set end.

<b>Narita Bus Schedule</b>	
From the Intercontinental (120 minutes) ¥3,500	From the YCAT (100 min) ¥3,500
06:40 07:40 08:40 11:40 12:40 14:10	Every 15-20 minutes from 05:15 to 19:30

# NEC Final (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter): Russia vs Mixed

by Rich Colker



Milner



Gromov



Dubinin



Lall



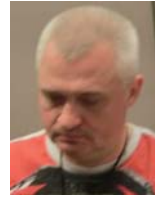
Brink



Pszczola



Kwecien



Gladysz

Russia had an 11-imp lead from the moderately high-scoring (48-37) first quarter, and the action in the second quarter picked up right where it had left off.

Bd: 17  
 Dlr: North  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ A54  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ AJ73  
 ♣ AQ843

West  
 ♠ J109  
 ♥ AJ9875  
 ♦ 85  
 ♣ K10

East  
 ♠ K86  
 ♥ K1063  
 ♦ 1092  
 ♣ J95

South  
 ♠ Q732  
 ♥ Q2  
 ♦ KQ64  
 ♣ 762

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwecien</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
	1♦(1)	Pass	1♠
2♥	Dbl(2)	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Rdbl	4♦
All Pass			

(1) Precision  
 (2) Support

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Gladysz</i>	<i>Welland</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥(♠)
Dbl	Rdbl(1)	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

(1) Support (3 spades plus extra values)

Welland's 3NT bid in the Closed Room seems to have suggested a balanced hand with only four spades, enough values for game opposite extras, but not necessarily a full heart stopper — or could he simply have been "operating"? (Why not cue-bid 2♥ along the way to see if partner likes notrump? Perhaps so as not to wrong-side the contract if North has ♥Ax(x).) In any case, this was not N/S's finest hour. When Brink led a heart the defense cashed

their six tricks there and switched to a spade. Welland rose with the ace and, having pitched all of his clubs on the hearts so that a club finesse was no longer possible, claimed only six tricks for -150. Of course -150 versus -100 could never make or break the match. Besides, we have it on good authority that no one has ever lost a KO match by 1 imp.

N/S's actions in the Open Room appear reasonable. With the ♠K onside and the suit splitting three-three, trumps breaking three-two, and the club finesse working as well, 4♦ was cold. But for the very same reasons, 3♥x was going for -300 (and if any one of those things failed to happen 4♦ was going down one but 3♥x was still going for -100). Pszczola ("Pepsi" from now on) led a heart and Kwecien ("Quicken" from now on) switched to the ♣K. Gromov won and tested trumps, drawing the third round when the suit broke three-two, then ducked a club and claimed; +130. That was 7 imps to Russia, increasing their lead to 18 at 55-37.

Bd: 18  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ J10762  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ QJ65  
 ♣ J1084

West  
 ♠ K3  
 ♥ KQ109873  
 ♦ A8  
 ♣ K3

East  
 ♠ AQ54  
 ♥ J2  
 ♦ 7432  
 ♣ AQ2

South  
 ♠ 98  
 ♥ A654  
 ♦ K109  
 ♣ 9765

Both E/W pairs reached the cold 6♥ contract here and scored it up for a pair of 980s.



Bd: 19  
 Dlr: South  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ 1094  
 ♥ 1075  
 ♦ AJ7  
 ♣ KQ92

West  
 ♠ QJ872  
 ♥ AQJ9  
 ♦ Q65  
 ♣ 6

East  
 ♠ 3  
 ♥ K2  
 ♦ 109432  
 ♣ AJ1043

South  
 ♠ AK65  
 ♥ 8643  
 ♦ K8  
 ♣ 875

Open Room

West <i>Kwiecien</i>	North <i>Gromov</i>	East <i>Pszczola</i>	South <i>Dubinin</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	All Pass		Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Brink</i>	North <i>Auken</i>	East <i>Gladysz</i>	South <i>Welland</i>
1♠	Dbl	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

The Poles had a natural auction in the Open Room to settle in their four-two fit, as would most Standard bidders. Gromov led the ♣K to the ace and Quicken led a spade up, preparing to ruff spades in dummy. Dubinin rose with the king and switched to the ♦K, the defense taking three tricks there before exiting with the ♥10. Quicken won the jack in hand, drew trumps, and got out with the ♠Q, but had to lose a club as well for down one, -100.

Welland's 1♣ opening would not be everyone's choice with those cards but somehow he emerged smelling of roses. Brink led the ♠2. When Welland called for the ten from dummy and it held he was well on his way to a plus score. He got out with a heart to Gladysz's king and the ♣10 came back, presenting him with another free trick for the cause. Welland won and continued the heart attack, this time Brink cashing his winners there before exiting with the ♠Q. Welland tried a club and when Brink showed out ducked it to Gladysz, who cashed the ♣A allowing Welland to claim the rest; +90 for a push. Whoa!

Bd: 20  
 Dlr: West  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ 10983  
 ♥ 85  
 ♦ 9875  
 ♣ Q94

West  
 ♠ KQ72  
 ♥ J1062  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ 10862

East  
 ♠ J64  
 ♥ K74  
 ♦ AKJ42  
 ♣ K7

South  
 ♠ A5  
 ♥ AQ93  
 ♦ 1063  
 ♣ AJ53

Open/Closed Rooms

West <i>Kwiecien</i> <i>Brink</i> Pass 2♣ 2NT	North <i>Gromov</i> <i>Auken</i> Pass Pass All Pass	East <i>Pszczola</i> <i>Gladysz</i> 1NT 2♦	South <i>Dubinin</i> <i>Welland</i> Pass Pass
--	--	--	---

When *our* partners open 1NT and we hold a hand like West's here our partners never hold a four-card major either. There oughta be a law! In the Open Room Dubinin led a club to the two, nine and king, and Pepsi unblocked the ♦Q, then led a spade to the jack. Dubinin won the ace and got out with a spade to dummy's king. Next Pepsi tried to get to his hand with a heart, but the king lost to the ace. The defense now cashed three clubs and the ♥Q, then tucked declarer in dummy, where he had to lose another spade; down two, -200.

In the Closed Room Welland led the ♦10 to the queen. Gladysz tried to return to hand with a spade to the jack but Welland won and led back a spade. Gladysz won the king, cashed the queen, and when the suit failed to split called for the ♥J and let it ride. Welland ducked smoothly and Gladysz led a second heart to the king. Now Welland won, cashed the ♥Q, and got out with a third heart to dummy's ten. Finally Gladysz tried the third arrow in his quiver and played a club to the king, but Welland won the ace and led a club Auken's queen. She cashed the ♠10 and played a club to Welland's jack for down one, -100; 3 moreimps to Russia, leading now 58-37.

Mixed had not yet scored an imp in the second quarter, but that was about to change.

Bd: 21  
 Dlr: North  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ QJ865  
 ♥ KQ1082  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ 52

West  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ J765  
 ♦ J9532  
 ♣ KJ64

East  
 ♠ AK74  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ AQ7  
 ♣ A109873

South  
 ♠ 10932  
 ♥ A943  
 ♦ K864  
 ♣ Q

Open Room

West <i>Kwiecien</i>	North <i>Gromov</i>	East <i>Pszczola</i>	South <i>Dubinin</i>
1♦	Pass	1♣	Pass
5♣	1♠	2♣	3♣
	5♠	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Brink</i>	North <i>Auken</i>	East <i>Gladysz</i>	South <i>Welland</i>
1♥	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
	Pass	5♣	All Pass

The Russians found the pre-save in 5♠ against the

cold 6♣ so they were in decent shape, provided their teammates bid the slam in the other room. Pepsi led the ace and a second club and Gromov ruffed and went after trumps. Pepsi won, cashed the ♦A, and continued the club attack. Gromov ruffed in dummy, pitching a heart from hand, then played the ♠10 and Pepsi ducked, leaving Gromov in dummy with the unenviable choice of either playing a heart to hand, allowing Pepsi to score a low trump, or ruffing a diamond and reducing himself to Pepsi's length and risk getting tapped out. He opted for the former and ended up three down, -800.

Unfortunately for the Russians, Brink-Gladysh were not up to reaching the club slam in the Closed Room (5♣ seems like a serious underbid when as little as ♠xx ♥xxxx ♦Jxx ♣Kxxx opposite would make 6♣ cold). Gladysh scored up +420 to bring Mixed 9 imps closer at 58-46.

Bd: 22  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ KQ8632  
 ♥ K865  
 ♦ 75  
 ♣ 10

West  
 ♠ 74  
 ♥ AJ  
 ♦ A3  
 ♣ AKQJ832

East  
 ♠ A109  
 ♥ Q9732  
 ♦ KQ8  
 ♣ 95

South  
 ♠ J5  
 ♥ 104  
 ♦ J109642  
 ♣ 764

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
		Pass	Pass
2♣	2♠	Dbl	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♥	Pass	7♣	All Pass

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Gladysh</i>	<i>Welland</i>
		1♥	2♦
3♣	3♠	Pass	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

We don't pretend to know what all of the Poles' bids mean in the Open Room beyond the third round of the auction, but clearly bidding a grand slam on a finesse (for the ♥K), especially when the opponent who bid against you is sitting offside, is not one of the great ideas of our times. Sure enough, there was no successful squeeze position (South could guard the second round of spades and declarer could not ruff a spade, after pitching one on the third diamond, to isolate the spade menace with North without using his entry to the spade threat in dummy) and the heart finesse was off. Down one, -100.

The Closed Room auction looks transcendental to us, specifically Brink's leap to 6♣, when he could

easily have been off two cashing spades. But in the final analysis it is difficult to argue with success and +1370 surely qualifies on those grounds. That was 16 imps back to Mother Russia, now leading 74-46.

Bd: 23  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ 943  
 ♥ AQJ6  
 ♦ K8762  
 ♣ 7

West  
 ♠ J85  
 ♥ 843  
 ♦ J104  
 ♣ KJ102

East  
 ♠ KQ10762  
 ♥ 1092  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ 543

South  
 ♠ A  
 ♥ K75  
 ♦ AQ95  
 ♣ AQ986

Both N/S pairs conducted lengthy auctions to reach the good 7♦ and scored it up for a push. Then...

Bd: 24  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ Q  
 ♥ 543  
 ♦ K95432  
 ♣ K62

West  
 ♠ J863  
 ♥ 1062  
 ♦ J7  
 ♣ AJ98

East  
 ♠ A109  
 ♥ J87  
 ♦ AQ108  
 ♣ Q103

South  
 ♠ K7542  
 ♥ AKQ9  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ 754

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣(1)	1♠
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

(1) Clubs or minimum balanced

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Gladysh</i>	<i>Welland</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dbl
1♠	3♦	All Pass	

In the Closed Room Gladysh could not have been unhappy to hear his best suit bid on his right at the three level and to get to defend there. He led the ace and another spade, Auken pitching a club, followed by a trump to the king and ace. Gladysh switched to a heart. Auken won and cashed four hearts to pitch a club before playing any more trumps. That allowed Brink to ruff in with the short trump hand and now the contract was down three, -150.

In the Open Room Gromov played a level lower and two tricks better. Pepsi led a heart. Gromov won and led a spade to the queen and ace. Now Pepsi switched to a club to the ace and Quicken returned a club. Gromov won the king, crossed to a top heart,

pitched his last club on the ♠K, ruffed a spade, led his third heart to dummy, happy to see the suit break evenly, ruffed a club and got out with a low diamond. Quicken overtook the ♦8 with the jack and returned a diamond, but Gromov covered with the nine and Pepsi was endplayed to concede a diamond to Gromov's king; +90. Very nicely done, Mr. Gromov. That was 6 more imps to Russia, whose lead now grew to 34, 80-46.

Bd: 25  
 Dlr: North  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ KQ2  
 ♥ AKJ10  
 ♦ A1053  
 ♣ KQ

West	East
♠ J97653	♠ 1084
♥ 75	♥ Q942
♦ 86	♦ 42
♣ A105	♣ J732

South  
 ♠ A  
 ♥ 863  
 ♦ KQJ97  
 ♣ 9864

This was another slam hand (6♦) bid at both tables for a push at 920.

Bd: 26  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ J862  
 ♥ AQ1063  
 ♦ AQJ  
 ♣ Q

West	East
♠ K973	♠ A4
♥ J82	♥ K754
♦ 432	♦ 8765
♣ 1093	♣ A52

South  
 ♠ Q105  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ K109  
 ♣ KJ8764

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
Pass	1♣(STR)	Pass	2♣(1)
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) NAT, positive  
 Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Welland</i>
Pass	3NT	1♣(1)	2♣
		All Pass	

(1) 2+ clubs, Polish style

Philosophical/rhetorical question: If two 1♣ auctions diverge in the forest, do they both lead to 3NT? There are several possible lines of play for declarer in 3NT, depending on the opening lead and several other considerations. Both editors think they would go after clubs first (see, lightning can strike twice at the same bridge event), and so did Gromov. He won

the opening diamond lead with the queen, led the ♣Q, ducked, then led a spade up. Pepsi flew ace and switched to...a heart, which certainly did not strike fear in the heart of Gromov. A second spade went to the queen and king and back came the ♥8, 10, K, ♣6. Now Pepsi inexplicably returned the ♥7, giving up his second heart trick. Gromov must have smiled (at least inside) as he claimed 10 tricks; +630.

Apparently Auken-Welland play natural 2♠ cue-bids over Polish-style 1♣ openings, an agreement that is in the minority in this editor's opinion, though not in the other's. With hearts an unbid suit Gladys can be excused for leading one. Auken won the jack with the queen, tabled the ♣Q, ducked, and led a low spade up. When Gladys followed low Brink won the queen with the king and returned the ♥8 to the ten and king, and as happened at the other table Gladys played back the ♥7, giving Auken four tricks in the suit. Next Auken led another spade up. Gladys won perforce and now cashed the ♣A for the defense's fourth and last trick. Auken claimed the rest, +600, for 1 more imp to Russia, now 81-46.

Bd: 27  
 Dlr: South  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ AK5  
 ♥ QJ52  
 ♦ KQ6  
 ♣ 972

West	East
♠ J74	♠ Q63
♥ A83	♥ 10964
♦ A9754	♦ 82
♣ A6	♣ 8543

South  
 ♠ 10982  
 ♥ K7  
 ♦ J103  
 ♣ KQJ10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
1♦	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Welland</i>
1♦	3NT	All Pass	1♣

Has anyone else noticed that Welland seems to bid a lot? (Yes, we do realize that he only does so at his own turn.) If you held Auken's hand would you be surprised to learn that if an opponent held the ace-third of clubs dummy would contribute just two tricks to your cause? Would you be surprised to learn that you have no play for the contract on the expected diamond lead? Inquiring minds want to know. Gladys led the ♦8 and Auken overtook dummy's jack with the queen to play a club to the ten and ace. Brink exited with a low diamond, ducked to dummy, and now Auken had only one play for the contract: ♠QJx onside. She called for the ♠10 and passed it. Gladys won the queen, played a heart to the ace, and Brink cashed out for down two, -100.

The auction in the Closed Room just “feels” more acceptable despite the fact that the contract was no more viable than it was in the other room. The defense went much the same as it did there and Gromov did end up in dummy after winning the third diamond and did call for the ♠10. But he rose with the ace when Quicken followed low, perhaps thinking Pepsi was more likely to hold queen-jack doubleton than Quicken was to duck the ♠10 in tempo holding both spade honors — or perhaps he just wanted to save an undertrick, which in fact he did. After winning the ♠A Gromov played a heart to the king. Quicken now cashed out for down one, the defense not getting the spade trick they took in the Open Room. So, -50 brought another 2 imps to the Russians, who led now by 37, 83-46.

Both E/W pairs bid and made 3♣ on Board 28, then both N/S pairs bid and made 4♠ on Board 29.

Bd: 30  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ K1063  
 ♦ AKQ1093  
 ♣ J94

West  
 ♠ 109652  
 ♥ J82  
 ♦ 852  
 ♣ 65

East  
 ♠ KQ83  
 ♥ AQ975  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ 10872

South  
 ♠ AJ74  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ J764  
 ♣ AKQ3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
2♦	3NT	All Pass	Dbl

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Gladysz</i>	<i>Welland</i>
Rdbl	5♦	All Pass	Dbl

When the Russians in the Open Room blasted blindly into 3NT (isn't that the bid everyone would make over 2♦ with the North cards?) the Mixers had a chance to make a significant dent in the Russian lead. Pepsi led a low heart and Gromov threw his cards on the table, claiming twelve tricks for +490. Ugh and double-ugh.

Brink, in the Closed Room, found the perfect time to make a psychic redouble. Still, there has to be a better bid than 5♦ with the North cards; the hand is just too strong, both in high cards and in playing

strength. An opportunity wasted, Auken claimed twelve tricks on the ♠A without breaking a sweat ...err, sorry, without perspiring (women don't sweat, we're told); +420. That was 2 imps to Russia, leading 85-46, instead of 10 imps to Mixed.

Both E/W pairs played 4♠ on Board 25 and made an overtrick when they both dropped the singleton ♠K offside — missing two trumps. Last chance for Mixed to gain a swing in this set.

Bd: 32  
 Dlr: West  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ J73  
 ♥ Q75  
 ♦ 96  
 ♣ KQJ62

West  
 ♠ K  
 ♥ 963  
 ♦ A10743  
 ♣ 10875

East  
 ♠ A108654  
 ♥ AJ82  
 ♦ KJ2  
 ♣ ---

South  
 ♠ Q92  
 ♥ K104  
 ♦ Q85  
 ♣ A943

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Gladysz</i>	<i>Welland</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	2♣	Dbl	3♣
3♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

It is hard to find fault with Dubinin's diamond lead against 2♥ in the Open Room but it could hardly have turned out worse. Pepsi won in hand, cashed the ♠K, crossed back to the ♦K, cashed the ♠A, ruffed a spade, then cashed the ♦A. Gromov ruffed with the ♥Q and played the ♣K. Pepsi ruffed and played a spade. Gromov ruffed and led a heart, ducked to the ten, and Dubinin switched back to the ♣A. Pepsi could only score his last two trumps but that was good enough for eight tricks (BBO showed declarer claiming nine tricks but that just does not seem possible); +110 (or +140).

In the Closed Room Brink-Gladysz sailed into 5♦ (East's final bounce appearing Tigger-like) and received the ♣K lead. Brink ruffed, came to hand with the ♠K, ruffed another club, cashed the ♦K, pitched a third club on the ♠A, ruffed a spade, played ♦A and a diamond and now the defense could cash a club but that was it; +600. 10 more imps to Russia, to take a commanding lead at the half, 95-46.

# NEC Final (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter): Russia vs Mixed

by Barry Rigal



Milner



Gromov



Lall



Brink



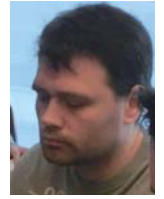
Auken



Dubinin



Welland



Krasnoselski

For anyone who wonders how the modern game differs from the way we oldies used to play, the first board of the set demonstrated that if Ely Culbertson were alive he would be turning over in his grave. 2.5 honor tricks? We don't need no stinkin' honor tricks!

Bd: 33  
Dir: North  
Vul: None

North  
♠ 98  
♥ AJ1092  
♦ Q10  
♣ K1092

West  
♠ AK3  
♥ 43  
♦ A762  
♣ QJ63

East  
♠ 542  
♥ K8765  
♦ 53  
♣ A87

South  
♠ QJ1076  
♥ Q  
♦ KJ984  
♣ 54

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milner</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠

Dbf	2♣	All Pass	
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## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Kras'ki</i>	<i>Welland</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠(R)

Pass	1NT(♣)	Pass	2♣
All Pass			

Gromov played 2♣ on a diamond lead, ducked. He played the ♥A and ran ♥J successfully (good), but when he took a second ruffing finesse West over-ruffed and played back a low trump to the king and ace. After a diamond to the ace Milner accurately cashed one trump and two spades before leading another diamond. Gromov discarded so Lall could ruff, cash the ♥K, and the defenders still had a trump to come for down four, -200.

In the other room the defenders cashed their spades and ♦A, then played a second diamond. Welland

scored a diamond, a spade, a heart and a ruff and eventually the ♣K for down three. 2 imps to Mixed the hard way. They trailed 95-48.

Bd: 34  
Dir: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ A  
♥ 4  
♦ 765432  
♣ K8762

West  
♠ KQJ98  
♥ KQ95  
♦ J10  
♣ A4

East  
♠ 7432  
♥ AJ63  
♦ AK  
♣ Q103

South  
♠ 1065  
♥ 10872  
♦ Q98  
♣ J95

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milner</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♣(♥)	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Kras'ki</i>	<i>Welland</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

It appears that the Closed Room auction was based on East playing transfers over the 1♣ opening and West playing natural. Winning 11 imps for such an action is somewhat fortunate, wouldn't you say? Mind you, Lall had his chance to make 6♥ after a trump lead. Naturally enough he declined to play North for two singletons in the majors, the spade singleton being the ace, to achieve an endplay where he would have had to guess clubs. Instead he drew two trumps, found the bad break, then tried to



pass the ♣Q. Note to foreign players: Chinese finesses do not work in Japan. North cashed out and then, according to our vugraph operator, at the end of the hand when Lall had conceded one down he could not resist showing his hand to declarer.

Bd: 35  
Dir: South  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ Q75  
♥ ---  
♦ AQ8764  
♣ J932

West  
♠ 83  
♥ K842  
♦ K52  
♣ A1087

East  
♠ K64  
♥ QJ106  
♦ 1093  
♣ Q64

South  
♠ AJ1092  
♥ A9753  
♦ J  
♣ K5

Open Room

West <i>Milner</i>	North <i>Gromov</i>	East <i>Lall</i>	South <i>Dubin</i> 1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West <i>Brink</i>	North <i>Auken</i>	East <i>Kras'ki</i>	South <i>Welland</i> 1♠
Pass	2♥(♠)	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Brink found the testing trump lead against 4♠. Welland won cheaply in hand and advanced the ♦J. Brink ducked without a flicker but declarer let it run, then crossruffed in diamonds and hearts for the next five tricks. Now he led the fourth diamond and pitched his last heart. West was forced to ruff and could only exit with his last heart. Declarer ruffed, his eighth trick, then exited with the ♣K, forcing the defenders to take their two club winners but then lead a trump at the end to allow the ace and jack of trumps to score. Nicely done.

In the other room Milner's trump lead allowed declarer to take the ace and ruff two diamonds in hand while taking two heart ruffs in dummy. Then he too led the fourth diamond and East shook his last heart while declarer scored the ♠10. The fourth heart was ruffed with the ♠Q and now if East discarded declarer would have two spade winners to come. If he overruffed he could play back a trump and let declarer draw trumps and cash his heart. Lall sensibly went for the overruff and spade back since that needed the least from his partner. No swing, still 106-48 to Russia.



King of Yokohama

Bd: 36  
Dir: West  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ J4  
♥ Q975  
♦ J7652  
♣ 106

West  
♠ AK102  
♥ 10  
♦ 1093  
♣ Q9853

East  
♠ 9863  
♥ AK2  
♦ 84  
♣ AK72

South  
♠ Q75  
♥ J8643  
♦ AKQ  
♣ J4

Open Room

West <i>Milner</i>	North <i>Gromov</i>	East <i>Lall</i>	South <i>Dubin</i> 1♥
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
Dbl	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Brink</i>	North <i>Auken</i>	East <i>Kras'ki</i>	South <i>Welland</i> Dbl
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥(♠)	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Different approaches to bidding the South cards made it hard for Brink-Krasnosselski and relatively easy for Milner-Lall to reach 4♠. With clubs 2-2 declarer could maybe have afforded a safety play in spades in the Open Room but he did not take it. Today it didn't matter but in the Closed Room 4-1 trumps were certainly plausible and East passed the ♠9 on the first round of the suit. Still 106-48.

Bd: 37  
Dir: North  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ KQ2  
♥ 2  
♦ AJ87543  
♣ 106

West  
♠ A87  
♥ 98765  
♦ Q102  
♣ A7

East  
♠ ---  
♥ AJ3  
♦ K96  
♣ KQ98542

South  
♠ J1096543  
♥ KQ104  
♦ ---  
♣ J3

Open Room

West <i>Milner</i>	North <i>Gromov</i>	East <i>Lall</i>	South <i>Dubin</i> 2♠
Pass	1♦	2♣	2♠
All Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

Closed Room

West <i>Brink</i>	North <i>Auken</i>	East <i>Kras'ki</i>	South <i>Welland</i> 2♠
3♣	1♦	2♣	Dbl
All Pass	4♠	5♣	

Krasnosselski had the opportunity for a very nice play here and took it. After the lead of the ♥K he knew that diamonds rated to be 7-0. So instead of taking two clubs and cashing the ♠A (which works today but not if South is 6-4-0-3) he won the ♥A and ran five trumps, then led a diamond to the queen and ace. That forced North to win and return a diamond or a spade to dummy, letting declarer take the heart discard and then the diamond finesse.

In the other room Dubinin, in 4♠, lost the obvious four top tricks but Russia had 10 imps. Credit Brink with some of those imps for his 3♣ bid; it might not always work but raising two-level overcalls encourages partner when he has bid with a good suit (and will encourage him to have a good suit next time if he has come in with insufficient excuse).

Bd: 38  
Dir: East  
Vul: E/W

North	♠ KJ10876	♥ K2	♦ A102	♣ J3
West	♠ Q94	♥ Q9873	♦ KQ65	♣ 8
East	♠ 3	♥ J	♦ J974	♣ AKQ10952
South	♠ A52	♥ A10654	♦ 83	♣ 764

Open Room

West <i>Milner</i>	North <i>Gromov</i>	East <i>Lall</i>	South <i>Dubinin</i>
Pass	3♠	All Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Brink</i>	North <i>Auken</i>	East <i>Kras'ki</i>	South <i>Welland</i>
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Do you think the South hand is worth a 4♠ bid? My view is that it is, but switch the minors and I'd pass. It is obviously very close at these colors, and one of our Souths bid and one passed.

Declaring 3♠ Gromov received the defense of three rounds of clubs, Milner accurately discarding diamonds to try to prevent the ruff in dummy. That held Gromov to nine tricks when he played the ♦A and ducked a diamond, then won the heart shift, drew a trump with the ace and then finessed. Had he led a trump to the jack and ruffed a diamond with the ♠A he would have had a tenth trick but would have risked the contract.

By contrast, in 4♠ Auken received the defense of two rounds of clubs and a heart shift. I do not see any way home for declarer now, who simply played off the top trumps, hoping they split, and now went two down since she could no longer take the diamond ruff. The 6 imps here made it 122-48.

Bd: 39  
Dir: South  
Vul: Both

North	♠ J63	♥ 62	♦ K10974	♣ KJ2
West	♠ K8	♥ Q1053	♦ AJ3	♣ 7654
East	♠ Q10942	♥ AKJ97	♦ 82	♣ Q
South	♠ A75	♥ 84	♦ Q65	♣ A10983

Open Room

West <i>Milner</i>	North <i>Gromov</i>	East <i>Lall</i>	South <i>Dubinin</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West <i>Brink</i>	North <i>Auken</i>	East <i>Kras'ki</i>	South <i>Welland</i>
Pass	1♥(♠!)	Dbl(♥)	1♣
2NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
			All Pass

In the Closed Room E/W had a more challenging task than one might expect to find their heart fit, but they had the conventional agreements in place to do it. Nicely done. Equally, in the Open Room Milner looked with pleasure at his fitting spade cards and side ace and decided to drive to game. Both tables led trumps and the declarers wrapped up +650. No swing, 122-48 still.

Bd: 40  
Dir: West  
Vul: None

North	♠ AJ74	♥ QJ65	♦ 2	♣ J864
West	♠ KQ	♥ AK7	♦ KJ984	♣ K75
East	♠ 962	♥ 1042	♦ Q1076	♣ AQ3
South	♠ 10853	♥ 983	♦ A53	♣ 1092

Open Room

West <i>Milner</i>	North <i>Gromov</i>	East <i>Lall</i>	South <i>Dubinin</i>
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West <i>Brink</i>	North <i>Auken</i>	East <i>Kras'ki</i>	South <i>Welland</i>
1♦	Dbl	3♦(1)	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
(1) Mixed			

3NT looks comfortable enough except on a spade lead, when you need the suit to break 4-4. Auken, knowing that her partner could not bid a major over 3♦ and needing him to have values to have a shot to

beat the hand, quite sensibly led a club. In the other room Dubinin simply led his fourth highest and gained his side an imp. It was 123-48 now.

Bd: 41  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: E/W

North	South
♠ 4	♠ J1082
♥ 4	♥ J1092
♦ 9853	♦ K764
♣ KQ98743	♣ J

West	East
♠ AKQ7	♠ 9653
♥ KQ	♥ A87653
♦ Q102	♦ AJ
♣ 10652	♣ A

Open Room  
 West North East South  
*Milner Gromov Lall Dubinin*  
 4♣ 4♥ All Pass

Closed Room  
 West North East South  
*Brink Auken Kras'ki Welland*  
 4♣ Dbl 5♣  
 5NT Pass 6♥ Pass  
 6♠ All Pass

Yesterday Auken-Welland were unable to put a foot wrong; this set their opponents were on heat one, locating the spade fit where slam could be made — but only on a heart lead, since either minor lead takes the entry out of dummy prematurely. Auken did lead her singleton heart. Declarer won, tested trumps and hearts, went to the ♣A, played ♥A and ruffed out the hearts, cashed the last top trump, then ruffed a club to dummy. South could overruff but then had to lead diamonds back into dummy's tenace. As Henry Higgins said: "How simply frightful! How humiliating! How delightful!" All of this meant that Milner's somewhat pessimistic decision to pass 4♥ only served to hold the loss on the board to 13 imps; it was 136-48 now.

On the next board both E/W pairs bid accurately to the best partscore after the opening bidder raised a major-suit response with three trumps (take that, all you Frenchmen!). Then Russia gained 2 overtrick imps for a better lead against 3NT. The lead was up to 91 imps now.

Bd: 44  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: N/S

North	South
♠ 762	♠ K109853
♥ Q973	♥ 82
♦ AJ4	♦ ---
♣ 1054	♣ AKQ32

West	East
♠ AQJ	♠ 4
♥ AJ6	♥ K1054
♦ Q973	♦ K108652
♣ J97	♣ 86

Open Room  
 West North East South  
*Milner Gromov Lall Dubinin*  
 1NT Pass 2NT(♦) 3♠  
 All Pass

Closed Room  
 West North East South  
*Brink Auken Kras'ki Welland*  
 1NT Pass 2♣ 2♠  
 Pass Pass 3♦ Pass  
 3NT Pass Pass Dbl  
 4♦ All Pass

Welland was willing to risk his opponents retreating to 4♦ to try to get a non-spade lead against 3NT, and Brink was not prepared to gamble out a doubled contract here. So Krasnosselski got to play 4♦ in peace and quiet, needing to guess both red-suits to make. Somewhat surprisingly he got diamonds right and hearts wrong. Even though Welland had not pitched either of his small clubs, wasn't a spade-club two-suiter most consistent with Welland's actions? It hardly mattered since in the other room Dubinin got to play 3♠ on a diamond lead (well, wouldn't you?). That let one of the heart losers go away and he had nine tricks for 3 imps more to Russia.

Russia then gained another overtrick imp for correctly avoiding a 5-3 major-suit fit where 3NT made 11 tricks while to make 4♥ declarer had to play 109x facing AK87x for one loser (they were 4-1 offside but the singleton was an honor).

Finally, Mixed was about to get back on the scorecard — after 13 deals.

Bd: 46  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: None

North	South
♠ A	♠ Q7543
♥ KQJ92	♥ 8
♦ 102	♦ QJ754
♣ 76542	♣ 108

West	East
♠ J986	♠ K102
♥ A7654	♥ 103
♦ 986	♦ AK3
♣ K	♣ AQJ93

Open Room  
 West North East South  
*Milner Gromov Lall Dubinin*  
 2♣ Pass 2♥ All Pass

Closed Room  
 West North East South  
*Brink Auken Kras'ki Welland*  
 Pass Pass 3♣ 2♦(♦+M)  
 All Pass

Auken cannot have been delighted at the prospect of having to put down her dummy in 2♦, but it was a considerably better hand that she would have given her partner than the one that Dubinin put down for

his partner. Against 2♥ Lall led a top diamond and shifted thoughtfully to the ♠10. Gromov won and played a low club, Milner overtaking the jack, performe, to play a trump. Declarer had to lose six cards in the minors and two trumps; down three.

Brink's dummy would not have looked too bad to Krasnosselski in 3NT, which is easy to make, but after the heart lead declarer could not see the necessity for ducking. Instead he won, unblocked clubs, came to his hand and tried to draw trumps. But the bad breaks in both hearts and clubs meant that Auken had five winners in her hand ready to cash after declarer took his eight winners. Down one and 5imps to Mixed, trailing 142-53.

Bd: 47 North  
 Dlr: South ♠ 103  
 Vul: N/S ♥ A962  
 ♦ AK4  
 ♣ AKJ3

West  
 ♠ Q87  
 ♥ K105  
 ♦ 862  
 ♣ 10864

East  
 ♠ AJ92  
 ♥ QJ3  
 ♦ Q95  
 ♣ 975

South  
 ♠ K654  
 ♥ 874  
 ♦ J1073  
 ♣ Q2

Open Room

West <i>Milner</i>	North <i>Gromov</i>	East <i>Lall</i>	South <i>Dubin</i> <i>in</i> Pass
Pass	1♣(STR)	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥(♠)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West <i>Brink</i>	North <i>Auken</i>	East <i>Kras'ki</i>	South <i>Welland</i> Pass 1♥(♠)
Pass	1♣	Pass	
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

When Auken showed 17(+)-19 Welland had no reason to bid on. Krasnosselski led a top heart and declarer won to play the suit back. Brink won to play a club through and Krasnosselski, on winning the third heart, shifted to the ♠J, then a low spade when it held. Declarer ducked again and claimed +120.

In the other room Lall led the ♥Q (♥10 from Milner) and continued with the jack, which Milner overtook. Charmed, Gromov won, cashed his nine winners and collected a spade at the death for +630 and 11imps. That made the lead 100imps.

After the set concluded with a quiet partscore, Mixed sensibly took their ball and went home for an early dinner. The Bulletin Editors would be desolated at the prospect of not being able to stay up to 2AM, first covering, then writing up, the final set, but they would bear their loss with fortitude.

While Russia had had some good fortune at a few critical moments, they had played exceptionally well throughout the knock-out stage, conceding fewer than 1.5imps per board (165 in 112 deals). Mixed also played their part and would not be disgraced.



"So, you girls up for a party later?"

Yeh Bros Cup フローターチーム/ペア募集

Yeh Bros Cup スイスチーム/オープンペアのフローターを以下の通り募集します。

記

1. 募集数・日時

スイスチーム : 1チーム

4月24日・25日 午前9時30分-午後6時40分

オープンペア : 8ペア

4月25日 午後4時20分-午後7時50分 オープンペア予選

26日 午前9時30分-午後5時30分 オープンペア準決勝・決勝

2. 申込 : 4月23日(火) 正午までに、Yeh Bros Cup 大会事務局へ (045-228-6466)

☆フローターをお願いするチーム・ペアを前日までに決定して連絡します。

☆開始時の状況により、ご参加いただけないことがありますのでご了承ください。

☆フローターは参加料無料で、入賞した場合は賞金を授与します。

以上

## 18<sup>th</sup> NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Sunday (Apr. 21)	10:00-17:30	Asuka Cup (Open Pairs)	501, 502
	18:00-20:00	Closing Ceremony	503

### A Blast From the Past

Frank van Wezel and Hans van de Konijnenberg live in the Netherlands. They both collect books, magazines and daily bulletins about bridge. They especially enjoy reading daily bulletins from the pre-internet era because these bulletins contain a lot of wonderful photographs, marvellous sketches, splendid deals and tremendous stories and anecdotes. If you enjoy this type of material (as we do) surf right over to their web site ([www.bridgedailybulletins.nl](http://www.bridgedailybulletins.nl)) — and enjoy!

### NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 18<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:  
<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/home/English/nec/tabid/662/Default.aspx>  
Follow our featured matches on Vugraph each day at: [www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com)

### Important Information for Captains and Players in the Yeh Bros Cup

1. All captains are requested to attend the Captains' Meeting at 21:00 (9 pm) on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, in Room 511 of the Pacifico Yokohama Conventions center.
2. Play will commence in Room 503 on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 9:30 am.
3. Line-ups for Round One must be advised by 9:20. Subsequent line-ups to be completed and submitted within five minutes of the official finishing time of the previous match.
4. Payment of entry fees of \$500 or 50,000 Yen to be paid at the Captains' Meeting.
5. Entry to the pairs is to be completed by 9:30 on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Advice as to the number of pairs permitted per team will be given at that time.
6. The draw for team numbers will be carried out at the Captains' Meeting. Any captains not present will be allocated a team number by the chairman.
7. All players should note the systems and conventions restrictions, to be published in full in Monday's bulletin.
8. Playing times will be strictly monitored to ensure no delay in start times.
9. Yokohama is a non-smoking city. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking rooms.
10. Mobile Phones are not permitted in the playing area. Players may lodge their phones at the service desk.
11. Programs and T-shirts will be distributed at the Captains' Meeting after payment of the entry fee.

**REMEMBER, CAPTAINS' MEETING at 9:00 PM, ROOM 511**