

# HCL Bridge 2021 - QF 3 Shree cement vs Russia



By R Krishnan aka kista

The HCL bridge event <https://hcl-bridge.com> is one of the most significant events in the Indian bridge calendar. It has become immensely popular due to its outstanding conduct over the years. There are also a number of teams from other nations that compete in the tournament. **Kiran Nadar** is the generous sponsor who keeps raising the bar and making this tournament successful year after year.

## QF Shree cement vs Russia - Boards 21-30

I've got a few highlights of the quarterfinal match I played, including some very exciting moments. The outcome of crucial high-level decisions can swing wildly.

At the early phases of the tournament, the Russians were a fan favourite and doing quite well.

Their pairs were playing fairly complex and well-discussed methods. They employ multiple NT ranges and an aggressive pre-emptive style and many competitive transfers. The first two sets were flat and quiet and ended with a lead of 9 imps to Russia. Here is the summary of the third set.

Both NS pairs were playing similar methods except for variations in approach and style.

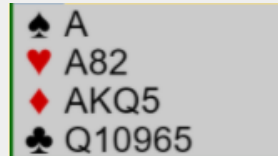
1♣ opening with 2+ cards and transfers | 1♦ opening always semi or unbalanced | 2♦ = Multi ( with different rationale ) | 2Major opening = Tartan for the Russian pair and Natural with a good hand for the Shree cement pair.

Both EW pairs were employing multiple NT ranges and aggressive preemptive style with

aggressive two-level openings and many modern competitive gadgets.

NS:	Yury Khyuppenen - Vadim Kholomeev	vs NS:	R Raghavendra - Krishnan R
vs EW:	Rajeev Khandelwal - Himani Khandelwal	EW:	anna gulevich - Andrey Gromov

Board #21



1♣ = 2+ ♣ 11-21  
What is your bid with the West hand?  
Gromov doubled and explained as equivalent to a

Polish club opening - A pretty good agreement in my mind.

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1♣
X	3♥	4♠	P
P	P		

The bidding proceeded as here. 3♥ was a preempt and 4♠ was to play. Gromov decided to pass. A fair decision.

The ♥K was led and the declarer won the ♥A and played a club. North ruffed and played a heart forcing the declarer to ruff. The declarer was still making the contract but read the cards incorrectly to go down three.

At the other table, Himani Passed 1♣ and ended up on the opening lead! , when East decided not to balance. East did not bargain for such a big hand from partner. That was down 5.

Shree cement up by 12 imps

The links to the hands to watch the bridge movie is given for each hand. You can follow the bidding and play in full detail.

<http://tinyurl.com/593jwrrp6>

21	N R Raghavendra#	W	N	E	S
	♠ 985 ♥ J1097643 ♦ 843 ♣		P	P	1♣
		X	3♥	4♠	P
		P	P		
W Andrey Gromov#	E Anna gulevich#				
♠ A ♥ A82 ♦ AKQ5 ♣ Q10965	♠ QJ1043 ♥ ♦ 1076 ♣ AJ843				
	S Krishnan R#mpa				
	♠ K762 ♥ KQ5 ♦ J92 ♣ K72				
		4♠ E	NS: 0 EW: 0		

<https://tinyurl.com/jc3747s>

21	N Yury Khyuppenel	W	N	E	S
	♠ 985 ♥ J1097643 ♦ 843 ♣		P	P	1♣
		P	P	P	
W Himani Khandelw	E Rajeev Khandelw				
♠ A ♥ A82 ♦ AKQ5 ♣ Q10965	♠ QJ1043 ♥ ♦ 1076 ♣ AJ843				
	S Vadim Kholomee				
	♠ K762 ♥ KQ5 ♦ J92 ♣ K72				
		1♠ S	NS: 0 EW: 0		

In my personal view opening a hand such as the East that has a great potential for playing at a high level, should be part of the system. Here is the result from another table that got to the slam after a Tartan opening by East.

<https://tinyurl.com/4eeabb8m>

21	N kachchu deysark	W	S+minor 4-10	S	
	♠ 985 ♥ J1097643 ♦ 843 ♣		P	2♠	
		2NT	P	3♣	
		3♦	P	4♦	
		6♣	P	P	
W Rashedul Hasan	E Bishwajit Saha#n				
♠ A ♥ A82 ♦ AKQ5 ♣ Q10965	♠ QJ1043 ♥ ♦ 1076 ♣ AJ843				
	S Pranab Bardhan				
	♠ K762 ♥ KQ5 ♦ J92 ♣ K72				
		6♣ E	NS: 0 EW: 0		

Board #22

♠ Q109765
♥ K964
♦ Q10
♣ 2

Both Easts passed this hand as the dealer, because of vulnerability and holding both majors.

South opened 1♣ and North responded 1♦ to show a ♥ suit. Anna bid 2♠ a weak jump overcall whereas Rajeev bid 1♠. At both tables, this got passed to North, who balanced with a double. This was duly passed by South for penalties. Himani for Shree cement resued to 2♦ which was doubled and defended for down one. East was declarer in 2♠ X and the result after a ♦ lead and return was down three. Another 12 imps to Shree cement taking the score to 24-0. This was the layout.

<https://tinyurl.com/445mae8p>

22	N Yury Khyuppenel	W	N	E	S
	♠ 84 ♥ Q872 ♦ K65 ♣ KQ43		P	1♠	1♣
		P	X	P	P
		2♦	P	P	X
		P	P	P	
W Himani Khandelw	E Rajeev Khandelw				
♠ 3 ♥ J1053 ♦ A9842 ♣ 1097	♠ Q109765 ♥ K964 ♦ Q10 ♣ 2				
	S Vadim Kholomee				
	♠ AKJ2 ♥ A ♦ J73 ♣ AJ865				
		2♦ X W	NS: 0 EW: 0		

<https://tinyurl.com/yh5hb5hf>

22	N R Raghavendra#	W N E S
	♠ 84 ♥ Q872 ♦ K65 ♣ KQ43	P 1♦ 2♠ P P X P P P
W Andrey Gromov#	E Anna gulevich#	
♠ 3 ♥ J1053 ♦ A9842 ♣ 1097	♠ Q109765 ♥ K964 ♦ Q10 ♣ 2	
	S Krishnan R#mpa	
	♠ AKJ2 ♥ A ♦ J73 ♣ AJ865	
		2♠ E NS: 0 EW: 0

Board #23

Both South's declared 4♣. The lead was different at both tables. The ♥Q lead helped set up the heart suit yielding an easy overtrick for Shree cement.

Shree cement 25 - Russia 0

<https://tinyurl.com/2jzb78xj>

23	N Yury Khyuppener	W N E S
	♠ Q97 ♥ AJ9872 ♦ K7 ♣ K5	P 2♥ P 1♠ P 4♠ P 2♠ P
W Himani Khandelw	E Rajeev Khandelw	
♠ J3 ♥ Q4 ♦ A962 ♣ AJ864	♠ 4 ♥ K1065 ♦ 108543 ♣ Q93	
	S Vadim Kholomee	
	♠ AK108652 ♥ 3 ♦ QJ ♣ 1072	
		4♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

<https://tinyurl.com/396s3p9s>

23	N R Raghavendra#	W N E S
	♠ Q97 ♥ AJ9872 ♦ K7 ♣ K5	P 3♦ P 2♠ P P P 4♠
W Andrey Gromov#	E Anna gulevich#	
♠ J3 ♥ Q4 ♦ A962 ♣ AJ864	♠ 4 ♥ K1065 ♦ 108543 ♣ Q93	
	S Krishnan R#mpa	
	♠ AK108652 ♥ 3 ♦ QJ ♣ 1072	
		4♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

Board #24

The bidding was slightly different at both tables. The Russian East used a fit showing bid. This helped South to realise that NS would likely have lots of red suit cards. Moreover, North's shortage in spades was also known to South. This took the auction to the five-level, which proved to be a bit high when the declarer at 5♠ X hoped for a trump break and went down two for 300 to NS. The NS pair reached the game at the other table which was doubled by West and removed by East to 4♠ without discovering the two suits fit. The trump lead helped the declarer pick up the trump suit for no loser and ended with an overtrick for 690 to EW. This netted 14 imps and the scores after four boards was Shree cement 39- Russia 0

<https://tinyurl.com/3r99tnpt>

24	N Yury Khyuppener	W N E S
	♠ 8 ♥ AK10753 ♦ K32 ♣ J62	1♠ 2♥ 3♣ 4♥ X P 4♠ X P P P
W Himani Khandelw	E Rajeev Khandelw	
♠ AK1063 ♥ QJ64 ♦ 7 ♣ Q83	♠ 974 ♥ ♦ J964 ♣ AK10974	
	S Vadim Kholomee	
	♠ QJ52 ♥ 982 ♦ AQ1085 ♣ 5	
		4♠ W NS: 0 EW: 0

<https://tinyurl.com/26hw9zr6>

24	N R Raghavendra#	W N E S
	♠ 8 ♥ AK10753 ♦ K32 ♣ J62	1♠ 2♥ 4♣ 4♠ 4♠ 5♦ X P 5♠ P P X P P P
W Andrey Gromov#	E Anna gulevich#	
♠ AK1063 ♥ QJ64 ♦ 7 ♣ Q83	♠ 974 ♥ ♦ J964 ♣ AK10974	
	S Krishnan R#mpa	
	♠ QJ52 ♥ 982 ♦ AQ1085 ♣ 5	
		5♠ W NS: 0 EW: 0

Board #25

East opened 1♦ at both tables. South overcalled 2 factoring North is a passed hand and the vulnerability being favourable and that West is likely to respond a Major. NS would have ended in 3 and West would have bid 3♦. East doubled 2♦ which led her partner to attribute length in the suit and a better hand. Envisioning 9 tricks West bid 3NT duly doubled and West retreated to 4♦. This went down one for a score of 100 to NS

As against this West got to respond 1NT to partner's opening bid and North got into the auction with a 2♣ bid to show both Majors and ended up in 2♥ on a 5-2 fit. On the lead of the singleton ♣9, this contract did not play well. The dummy got completely cut off and the declarer ended two down. This added another 5 imps to Shree cement. The score stood at Shree cement 44- Russia 0

<https://tinyurl.com/yu4rvbwc>

D 25	N Yury Khyuppener	W	N	E	S
	♠ Q632 ♥ J10432 ♦ A ♣ J105	1NT	P	1♦	P
W Himani Khandelw	E Rajeev Khandelw	P	2♣	P	2♦
♠ A74 ♥ Q9 ♦ 10964 ♣ K732	♠ J1085 ♥ AK65 ♦ KJ72 ♣ 9	P	2♥	P	P
S Vadim Kholomee	♠ K9 ♥ 87 ♦ Q853 ♣ AQ864	2♥ N			NS: 0 EW: 0

<https://tinyurl.com/ru7uw8sb>

D 25	N R Raghavendra#	W	N	E	S
	♠ Q632 ♥ J10432 ♦ A ♣ J105	P	2♦	X	P
W Andrey Gromov#	E Anna gulevich#	P	2♥	P	3♣
♠ A74 ♥ Q9 ♦ 10964 ♣ K732	♠ J1085 ♥ AK65 ♦ KJ72 ♣ 9	3NT	X	P	P
S Krishnan R#mpa	♠ K9 ♥ 87 ♦ Q853 ♣ AQ864	4♦ E			NS: 0 EW: 0

Board #26

Both tables played 2♠ by North. However, the bidding was slightly different because of the choice of the minor opening bid. Raghu knew that spades were well placed. The opening lead also helped in picking up the suit for no loser thus ending with ten tricks. At the other table, the Russian North played for a 3-2 spade break and ended with nine tricks. One more imp to Shree cement. The score Shree cement 45-Russia 0.

<https://tinyurl.com/32ae62bd>

D 26	N Yury Khyuppener	W	N	E	S
	♠ AKJ974 ♥ 43 ♦ 93 ♣ 1085	P	1♣	X	1NT
W Himani Khandelw	E Rajeev Khandelw	P	1♠	P	P
♠ Q532 ♥ 1096 ♦ K108 ♣ 742	♠ 6 ♥ AQ85 ♦ Q754 ♣ AJ63	P	2♠	P	P
S Vadim Kholomee	♠ 108 ♥ KJ72 ♦ AJ62 ♣ KQ9	2♠ N			NS: 0 EW: 0

<https://tinyurl.com/tkmnry2w>

26 D	N R Raghavendra#	W N E S
	♠ AKJ974	1♠ P 1NT X
	♥ 43	2♦ 2♠ P P
	♦ 93	P
♣ 1085		
W Andrey Gromov#	E Anna gulevich#	
♠ Q532	♠ 6	
♥ 1096	♥ AQ85	
♦ K108	♦ Q754	
♣ 742	♣ AJ63	
	S Krishnan R#mpa	
	♠ 108	
	♥ KJ72	
	♦ AJ62	
	♣ KQ9	
	2♠ N	NS: 0 EW: 0

### Board #27

A magical hand with the partner would have enabled Yury to make nine tricks, but that was not the case. His 3NT bid was not a success with EW cashing six tricks on the go and one more slow trick in the end for down 3 for 150 to EW.

At the other table, South's bid of 3♣ showed a hand with extras and Raghu proceeded cautiously with a bid of 3♦ and raised himself to 4♥. He could hardly think that the 5-level minor suit contract would be superior. A good case for ten trumps vs possible seven. 4♥ went down one for lack of entries to pick up the heart suit. This added 3 imps to Shree cement and the score stood at Shree cement 48- Russia 0

<https://tinyurl.com/4j5bvk5h>

27 D	N Yury Khyuppener	W N E S
	♠ Q5	1♦ X 1♠ 3♣
	♥ AJ1082	P 3NT P P
	♦ Q4	P
♣ 10852		
W Himani Khandelw	E Rajeev Khandelw	
♠ 8	♠ K97432	
♥ 964	♥ Q75	
♦ AK10985	♦ 7632	
♣ K93	♣	
	S Vadim Kholomee	
	♠ AJ106	
	♥ K3	
	♦ J	
	♣ AQJ764	
	3NT N	NS: 0 EW: 0

<https://tinyurl.com/rebyb5d4>

27 D	N R Raghavendra#	W N E S
	♠ Q5	1♦ 1♥ 2♥ 3♣
	♥ AJ1082	P 3♦ P 3♥
	♦ Q4	P 4♥ P P
♣ 10852		
W Andrey Gromov#	E Anna gulevich#	
♠ 8	♠ K97432	
♥ 964	♥ Q75	
♦ AK10985	♦ 7632	
♣ K93	♣	
	S Krishnan R#mpa	
	♠ AJ106	
	♥ K3	
	♦ J	
	♣ AQJ764	
	4♥ N	NS: 0 EW: 0

### Board #28

Here Himani's mini NT opening with 10 HCP stole the contract. North was probably stuck by the lack of a system to enter the auction. NS cashed the first ten tricks for a score of 200.

Apparently, this was out of an opening range for Gromov at the other table, who passed at first seat. This let North open the hand and NS find the fit and the game bid. East tried a bid on double but Gromov did not fancy bidding on because of the flat hand. The 4♥ contract played out easily at the other table for an overtrick yielding a score of 990. The difference of 790 translated to 13 imps to Shree cement.

The score was Shree cement 61 - Russia 0

<https://tinyurl.com/7vww29su>

Board #28	N	Yury Khyuppenei	W	N	E	S
	♠	J108	1NT	P	P	P
	♥	KQ106				
	♦	AJ9863				
♣	AJ9863					
W	Himani Khandelw		E	Rajeev Khandelw		
♠	9632		♠	AK54		
♥	852		♥	97		
♦	AKJ3		♦	Q10852		
♣	Q2		♣	104		
	S	Vadim Kholomee				
	♠	Q7				
	♥	AJ43				
	♦	9764				
	♣	K75				
				1NT W		NS: 0 EW: 0

<https://tinyurl.com/64s2t4e8>

Board #28	N	R Raghavendra#	W	N	E	S
	♠	J108	P	1♣	P	1♦
	♥	KQ106	X	3♥	3♠	4♥
	♦	AJ9863	P	P	X	P
♣	AJ9863		P	P		
W	Andrey Gromov#		E	Anna gulevich#		
♠	9632		♠	AK54		
♥	852		♥	97		
♦	AKJ3		♦	Q10852		
♣	Q2		♣	104		
	S	Krishnan R#mpa				
	♠	Q7				
	♥	AJ43				
	♦	9764				
	♣	K75				
				4♥x N		NS: 0 EW: 0

Board #29

♠	98753
♥	KJ10972
♦	
♣	J2

	2♦	P	3♦
P	3♥	4♦	P
5♦	5♥	P	P
X	P	P	P

Dealer Both VUL  
 Would you open this hand? Raghu did with a multi 2♦. The bidding went as shown. Raghu having rejected the invite now found a 5♥ as a save. This was

doubled. West thought that the club tricks were not disappearing but they did and the contract ended making for a score of 850, whereas 4♥ was beaten by a trick at the other table. EW did not enter the auction at all. A surprise. As the cards were EW could possibly make a minor suit game.

This result added 14 more imps to Shree cement. The score was Shree cement 75- Russia 0

<https://tinyurl.com/5j5d54yv>

Board #29	N	Yury Khyuppenei	W	N	E	S
	♠	98753		P	P	1♦
	♥	KJ10972		P	1♥	2♥
	♦			P	4♥	P
♣	J2		P			
W	Himani Khandelw		E	Rajeev Khandelw		
♠	AK6		♠	102		
♥	86		♥	Q		
♦	A75		♦	QJ10943		
♣	K9843		♣	A765		
	S	Vadim Kholomee				
	♠	QJ4				
	♥	A543				
	♦	K862				
	♣	Q10				
				4♥ N		NS: 0 EW: 0

<https://tinyurl.com/5v93vsx4>

Board #29	N	R Raghavendra#	W	N	E	S
	♠	98753		2♦	P	3♦
	♥	KJ10972		P	3♥	4♦
	♦			5♦	5♥	P
♣	J2		X	P	P	
W	Andrey Gromov#		E	Anna gulevich#		
♠	AK6		♠	102		
♥	86		♥	Q		
♦	A75		♦	QJ10943		
♣	K9843		♣	A765		
	S	Krishnan R#mpa				
	♠	QJ4				
	♥	A543				
	♦	K862				
	♣	Q10				
				5♥x N		NS: 0 EW: 0

Board #30 was the only flat board of the match. Both tables played 3NT by EW and ended making ten tricks.

The final score was,  
 Shree cement 75 imps - Russia 0

A massive set for Shree cement. It was an intense session of high-level judgement and decisions.

Here is the scorecard for the match.

NS: Yury Khyuppenen - Vadim Kholomeev					vs NS: R Raghavendra - Krishnan R						
vs EW: Rajeev Khandelwal - Himani Khandelwal					EW: Anna Gulevich - Andrey Gromov						
Board	Contract	Led	NS + EW +		Board	Contract	Led	NS + EW +		IMPS +	IMPS -
21	1♠ S -5 ♠A		500		21	4♠ E -3 ♠K		150			12
22	2♥X W -1 ♠K	200			22	2♠X E -3 ♠A		800			12
23	4♠ S = ♠A	620			23	4♠ S +1 ♠Q		650			1
24	4♠X W +1 ♠8		690		24	5♠X W -2 ♠K		300			14
25	2♥ N -2 ♠9		100		25	4♠ E -1 ♠8		100			5
26	2♠ N +1 ♠4	140			26	2♠ N +2 ♠6		170			1
27	3N N -3 ♠3		150		27	4♥ N -1 ♠6		50			3
28	1N W -4 ♠Q	200			28	4♥X N +1 ♠A		990			13
29	4♥ N -1 ♠Q		100		29	5♥X N = ♠Q		850			14
30	3N W +1 ♠2	430			30	3N E +1 ♠3		430			
<b>Total</b>										0	75

Here are some examples of hands that involve high levels of competition when it comes to the auction.

It's fascinating to see how bidding methods and ideologies affect the results. Influences surrounding a player have a profound effect on their judgment and actions. The results of many of these can be knee-jerk reactions, impulsive moves, or frustration when the mind is forced to wander and cannot focus. In many matches, the outcome depends on whether you bid well at the five-level auctions and miss out on slams.

It is very seldom that a short match goes completely one way as the one reported.

In response to many questions, I decided to make a report on how we won with such a huge margin.

The views expressed are those of the author, who played the south seat for the Shree cement team.