

## Overview - Kremlin Cup

Given the support of this event by several high-profile home players, and its relative proximity to the previous week's venue of Shanghai, this event usually provides a relatively high standard of competition - but whether that can be blamed for four seeds crashing out in R1 is another matter.

Nikolay Davydenko (No.1) lost tamely to Marat Safin, Victor Hanescu (No.2) was even more of a surprise, Wayne Odesnik saving one match point en route to victory, Igor Andreev (No.4) lost a close one to Robby Ginepri and Martin Vassallo Arguello (No.8) failed to justify one of the more bizarre seeding choices when falling to Andrey Golubev in straight sets.

The defending champion, Igor Kunitsyn, also fell to Evgeny Korolev, and a former finalist, Nicolas Kiefer, then retired with a back problem. The event was almost over before R2 had started!

In those matches Evgeny Korolev added the scalp of Safin to that of Kunitsyn, Mikhail Youzhny (No.3), Pablo Cuevas (No.5) and Janko Tipsarevic (No.6) all made the QF's with convincing wins - Cuevas losing the first set but coming back strongly against Gabashvili, the other two winning in straight sets for the second time.

There was home success for Illya Marchenko and Mikhail Kukushkin and the QF line-up was completed by the American, Robby Ginepri, who brushed off Marcel Granollers with ease and Sergiy Stakhovksy who proved much too strong for Fabrice Santoro (No.7).

Youzhny and Tipsarevic impressed once again in the QF's with impressive victories. Youzhny took just 71 minutes to see off the Ukrainian, Stakhovsky, and Tipsarevic took just 72 minutes to account for Ginepri. They would be joined in the SF's by two qualifiers. Marchenko coming back from losing the first set 0-6 to defeat Korolev in three, winning easily in the end, and then Kukushkin came back from 1-4 down in the third set to beat Pablo Cuevas.

However, both qualifiers were no match for their SF opponents who recorded a fourth straight sets win apiece. Tipsarevic lost only five games in taking out Marchenko, Youzhny gave up just three in trouncing Kukushkin in 69 minutes.

Youzhny won the title, losing the first set but coming back strongly in the 2'45" final. He said later - *'This is my most important title for sure, to win at home in front of family and friends is just incredible'*. The win moved him up to 5:6 in ATP Tour finals whilst the Serb, Tipsarevic, was still looking for his maiden tour title after losing this, his first ever final.



## Kremlin Cup

October 19-25, 2009

Indoor, Hard - World Tour 250

<b>R32</b>	<b>Nikolay Davydenko [1]</b>	6 4 2	<b>R16</b>	Marat Safin	4 6
<b>R32</b>	Marat Safin	4 6 6	<b>R16</b>	Evgeny Korolev	6 7
<b>R32</b>	Evgeny Korolev	7 6	<b>R16</b>	Illya Marchenko	6 1 6
<b>R32</b>	Igor Kunitsyn	6 3	<b>R16</b>	Andrey Golubev	1 6 4
<b>R32</b>	q-Illya Marchenko	1 6 4	<b>R16</b>	Robby Ginepri	7 6
<b>R32</b>	Denis Istomin	retd. 6 4 1	<b>R16</b>	Marcel Granollers	6 0
<b>R32</b>	Andrey Golubev	7 6	<b>R16</b>	Christophe Rochus	retd. 4 1
<b>R32</b>	<b>Martin Vassallo Arguello [8]</b>	5 3	<b>R16</b>	Janko Tipsarevic	6 2
<b>R32</b>	<b>Igor Andreev [4]</b>	3 7 6	<b>R16</b>	Fabrice Santoro	5 1
<b>R32</b>	Robby Ginepri	6 6 7	<b>R16</b>	Sergiy Stakhovsky	7 6
<b>R32</b>	q-Nicolas Kiefer	retd. 4 0	<b>R16</b>	Potito Starace	1 1
<b>R32</b>	Marcel Granollers	6 1	<b>R16</b>	Mikhail Youzhny	6 6
<b>R32</b>	Marc Gicquel	retd. 5	<b>R16</b>	Pablo Cuevas	3 6 6
<b>R32</b>	Christophe Rochus	7	<b>R16</b>	Teimuraz Gabashvili	6 1 4
<b>R32</b>	Daniel Koellerer	4 3	<b>R16</b>	Mihail Kukushkin	6 6
<b>R32</b>	<b>Janko Tipsarevic [6]</b>	6 6	<b>R16</b>	Wayne Odesnik	3 4
<b>R32</b>	<b>Fabrice Santoro [7]</b>	4 6 6	<b>QF</b>	Evgeny Korolev	6 2 3
<b>R32</b>	wc-Andrey Kuznetsov	6 2 2	<b>QF</b>	Illya Marchenko	0 6 6
<b>R32</b>	wc-Mikhail Biryukov	0 2	<b>QF</b>	Robby Ginepri	3 3
<b>R32</b>	q-Sergiy Stakhovsky	6 6	<b>QF</b>	Janko Tipsarevic	6 6
<b>R32</b>	Potito Starace	6 6	<b>QF</b>	Sergiy Stakhovsky	3 3
<b>R32</b>	wc-Evgeny Donskoy	3 3	<b>QF</b>	Mikhail Youzhny	6 6
<b>R32</b>	Horacio Zeballos	1 6	<b>QF</b>	Pablo Cuevas	6 1 4
<b>R32</b>	<b>Mikhail Youzhny [3]</b>	6 7	<b>QF</b>	Mikhail Kukushkin	4 6 6
<b>R32</b>	<b>Pablo Cuevas [5]</b>	6 6			
<b>R32</b>	Yen-Hsun Lu	4 2	<b>SF</b>	Illya Marchenko	1 4
<b>R32</b>	Karol Beck	6 4 4	<b>SF</b>	Janko Tipsarevic	6 6
<b>R32</b>	Teimuraz Gabashvili	3 6 6	<b>SF</b>	Mikhail Youzhny	6 6
<b>R32</b>	q-Mikhail Kukushkin	6 5 6	<b>SF</b>	Mikhail Kukushkin	2 1
<b>R32</b>	Fabio Fognini	4 7 4			
<b>R32</b>	Wayne Odesnik	5 7 6	<b>RU</b>	Janko Tipsarevic	7 0 4
<b>R32</b>	<b>Victor Hanesu [2]</b>	7 5 4	<b>W</b>	Mikhail Youzhny	6 6 6

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
<b>R32</b>	16 matches	9-7	2.43	22.56
<b>R16</b>	8 matches	6-2	2.25	19.62
<b>QF</b>	4 matches	2-2	2.50	21.50
<b>SF</b>	2 matches	2-0	2.00	16.00
<b>F</b>	1 match	0-1	3.00	29.00

## Kremlin Cup - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Nikolay Davydenko [1]	13/8
Mikhail Youzhny [3]	5/1
Marat Safin	11/1
Victor Hanescu [2]	12/1
Janko Tipsarevic [6]	12/1
Igor Andreev [4]	20/1
Robby Ginepri	22/1
Evgeny Korolev	25/1
Marc Gicquel	28/1
Fabrice Santoro [7]	33/1
Pablo Cuevas [5]	40/1
Fabio Fognini	50/1
Teimuraz Gabashvili	50/1
Potito Starace	66/1
Karol Beck	66/1

### Performance Of The Seeded Players

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>2009</b>	R1	R1	W	R1	QF	RU	R2	R1
<b>2008</b>	QF	R2	R1	QF	-	R1	RU	R2
<b>2007</b>	W	R2	R2	RU	R2	R1	R2	QF
<b>2006</b>	W	R1	R1	R1	R1	R2	SF	R1
<b>2005</b>	R1	R1	QF	QF	R2	RU	W	R2
<b>2004</b>	R2	QF	SF	R1	SF	R1	R2	W

### Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
<b>2009</b>	Mikhail Youzhny (5/1)	Janko Tipsarevic (12/1)	Kukushkin-Marchenko
<b>2008</b>	Igor Kunitsyn (80/1)	Marat Safin (12/1)	Santoro-Zverev
<b>2007</b>	Nikolay Davydenko (4/1)	Paul-Henri Mathieu (12/1)	Tipsarevic-Berrer
<b>2006</b>	Nikolay Davydenko (11/4)	Marat Safin (4/1)	Santoro-Kunitsyn
<b>2005</b>	Igor Andreev (28/1)	Nicolas Kiefer (16/1)	Tursunov-Kunitsyn
<b>2004</b>	Nikolay Davydenko (40/1)	Greg Rusedski (25/1)	Youzhny-Hrbaty

## Betting - Kremlin Cup

### Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Davydenko (13/8) was the obvious starting point. A past winner here, the best player in the field and a recent winner on tour. The only drawbacks looked a potentially tough draw (Safin-Kunitsyn-Golubev-Andreev-Youzhny) added to a rather modest price. Both were concerns.

However, in this section, Safin (11/1) was past his best, Tipsarevic (12/1) was a tour maiden, Andreev (20/1) always found a way to lose, Korolev (25/1) was another non-winner. It was maybe more a case of backing the Russian by a process of elimination.

The bottom section was more open. Youzhny (5/1) was hardly a prolific winner but had to be respected on home soil, Hanescu (12/1) was an odd choice for a high seeding and had no form indoors, and only one career win, Santoro (33/1) was always a danger - if slightly less so these days - and Cuevas (40/1) was a definite improver.

The final decision rested on how Davydenko was viewed. A solid win bet, a possible saver for an each-way investment in the bottom section (probably the best option) or a total swerve on account of his arguably tricky draw.

### Post-Tournament Review :-

The early loss of so many seeds made this anybody's event. Both Youzhny and Tipsarevic grasped their chance and both, undisputedly, deserved their place in the final on the back of four clear-cut wins.

Youzhny showed his ability, and the fact he should have won more than just five career events, Tipsarevic, likewise, is an enigma - he should have won tournaments by now suggesting the problem is more mental than physical.

Decent efforts by Marchenko, Kukushkin, Stakhovsky and Cuevas but several notable failures with Hanescu, Andreev and Korolev the main culprits whilst Davydenko maybe just caught Safin on a good day.

### Pointers for 2010 :-

Youzhny was the sixth straight Russian winner of this event. Home players do very well here. Seeds also tend to do well in a tournament not renowned for big priced winners - Kunitsyn aside. Given that form the options have to be established native talent (Nikolay Davydenko and Mikhail Youzhny) as well as the new breed (Evgeny Korolev) with players like Janko Tipsarevic and Andrey Golubev worthy of note.