

Revolving

Roulette Wheel

By: Philip Z Loh

Will you spin the wheel, or will the wheel spin you?



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The graphic in the middle are the chambers of a revolver. Five of them empty, one of them not – that hints at Russian Roulette! Indeed, the letters on the bullet are Cyrillic, and the flavor text reminds the solver of jokes like “in America, you break the law; in Soviet Russia, the law breaks you!”

Moving along, the solver is at this point completely aware of the fact that “Russian” will be important to this puzzle. Starting at the >, there are lots of integers that are in the range [1, 33]. The text on the bullet also says “Russian alphabet”. A cursory exploration into the Russian alphabet reveals that there are 33 letters in the alphabet. Some numbers seem to be transformed by reflections, and solvers should get to the following:

| Number | Russian Letter | Reflection? | English Letter |
|-----------|----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| 12 | К | | K |
| 6 | Е | | E |
| 31 | Э | Left/Right | E |
| 18 | Р | | P |
| 7 | Ё | | E |
| 33 | Я | Left/Right | R |
| 18 | Р | | P |
| 6 | Е | | E |
| 20 | Т | | T |
| 33 | Я | Left/Right | R |
| 19 | С | | C |
| 9 or 6 | З or Е | Left/Right if 9 or Top/Bottom if 6 | E or E |
| 19 | С | | C |
| 15 | Н | | H |
| -- | -- | -- | 'S |
| 19 | С | | C |
| 4 | Г | Top/Bottom | L |
| 17 | П | Top/Bottom | U |
| 3 | В | | B |
| 16 | О | | O |
| 26 | Ш | | W |
| 10 | И | Left/Right | N |
| 6 | Е | | E |
| 33 | Я | Left/Right | R |
| 33 | Я | Left/Right | R |
| 16 | О | | O |
| 14 | М | | M |
| 1 | А | | A |
| 10 | И | Left/Right | N |

The message reads KEEPER PETR CECH'S CLUB OWNER ROMAN, which is Mr. Roman **ABRAMOVICH**, the Russian oil magnate who bought Chelsea in 2003 and has since hired and fired 10 managers in 10 years (and counting) making a mockery of the English Premier League.

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