



AFRICAN BRIDGE FEDERATION 14TH AFRICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Online – 2026 ♦ ♥ ♣ ♠

From 5th – 19th September 2026



RealBridge

Bulletin 4

Wednesday 9th September

Editor Ron Tacchi

Last Chance To Make The Play-Offs

One day left to claim a berth to Barbados. **Egypt** are extremely well placed in both Championships. The interest for the non-partisan is for the second and third places. In the Seniors **South Africa** have opened up a gap of more than 20 VPs over **Morocco**. If it stays that way then there will not be a play-off for the second place to Barbados. However in the Mixed Morocco has a three point lead over South Africa so one of them needs to have a very good day to get a twenty point advantage. Both teams have a Bye. So they are only playing two matches and they do not get to play each other and also they both have to play Egypt.

Reunion are less than a match behind South Africa in the Mixed so they cannot be ruled out. There are many permutations and they will all be resolved later today.

Standings

Mixed Team	VPs	Position
Egypt	153.37	1
Morocco	135.37	2
South Africa	132.17	3
Reunion	114.93	4
Kenya	86.16	5

Senior Team	VPs	Position
Egypt	161.37	1
South Africa	134.56	2
Morocco	111.01	3
Reunion	72.06	4

All information can be found on the website:

www.bridgewebs.com/abf/





Schedule for Wednesday 8th September

Note all times are GMT

Senior Championship

R.R (05)		Match (01), 09H00			Match (02), 12H30			Match (03), 15H30		
Date	Table No.	Home Team	X	Visiting Team	Home Team	X	Visiting Team	Home Team	X	Visiting Team
WED	1	1 EGY	x	4 REU	3 MOR	x	1 EGY	1 EGY	x	2 RSA
09-Sep	2	2 RSA	x	3 MOR	4 REU	x	2 RSA	3 MOR	x	4 REU

Mixed Championship

R.R (03)		Match (03), 09H00			Match (04), 12H30			Match (05), 15H30		
Date	Table No.	Home Team	X	Visiting Team	Home Team	X	Visiting Team	Home Team	X	Visiting Team
WED	3	1 EGY	x	4 REU	3 RSA	x	1 EGY	1 EGY	x	2 MOR
09-Sep	4	5 KEN	x	3 RSA	4 REU	x	2 MOR	3 RSA	x	6 --
	5	6 --	x	2 MOR	5 KEN	x	6 --	4 REU	x	5 KEN

Results

Mixed Championship

Session 1	VPs
Egypt - Bye	12-0
Morocco - Kenya	18.97-1.03
South Africa - Reunion	5.82-14.18
Session 2	
Morocco - Kenya	12.29-7.71
Bye - Egypt	0-12
Reunion - South Africa	0.39-19.61
Session 3	
South Africa - Morocco	9.09-10.91
Kenya - Egypt	7.71-12.29
Bye - Reunion	0-12

Senior Championship

Session 1	VPs
Reunion - Egypt	12.29-7.71
South Africa - Morocco	13.97-6.03
Session 2	
Egypt - South Africa	12.03-7.97
Morocco - Reunion	15.19-4.81
Session 3	
Morocco - Egypt	6.03-13.97
Reunion - South Africa	2.41-17.59





Egypt vs. Morocco – Senior

Yet again the best laid plans of mice and men did not come to fruition when attempting to report on a third round match from day 3, so a couple of hours wasted watching and so I had to shift to another and found Egypt taking on Morocco in the Seniors. After the second match of the day Morocco were hard on the heels of South Africa for second place and so a good result here might well propel them up the leaderboard.

Board 34. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

		♠ J 10 8 4			♠ 9 5 3
		♥ 10 9 8 7 3			♥ A Q J
		♦ Q 9 4			♦ 8
		♣ 4			♣ A K Q J 6 3
♠ Q 6 2	N W E S			♠ AK 7	
♥ K 6				♥ 5 4 2	
♦ K J 10 7 5 2				♦ A 6 3	
♣ 10 8				♣ 9 7 5 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hayet	Azzam	Sibony	Zein
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

West was not aware that his spade holding constituted a stop in no-trumps. A question worth asking is was East's strong jump game forcing? It would appear not as he passed his partner's second bid. As usual there are lots of questions about the auction that are difficult to answer if one cannot speak to the participants. Other questions might be could West have tried Two Spades as a fourth suit forcing, or would Three Clubs be a better rebid for East. We shall never know. When the defence found a club ruff the contract failed by a trick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
ElAhmady	Belkouch	Sadek	Berrada
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

This East made my preferred bid of Three Clubs and now it was not difficult for West to have a punt at 3NT. When North started proceedings with a heart lead West gratefully claimed nine top tricks and 10 IMPs for Egypt.

Board 39. Dealer South. All Vul.

		♠ K J 10 8 4			♠ 3
		♥ A J 10 7			♥ K 9 8 5 4 3
		♦ A J 5			♦ Q 10
		♣ K			♣ A 10 9 8
♠ Q 9 7 5	N W E S			♠ A 6 2	
♥ 2				♥ Q 6	
♦ 8 7 6 3 2				♦ K 9 4	
♣ 7 5 3				♣ Q J 6 4 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hayet	Azzam	Sibony	Zein
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♠	2♥	Double*
Pass	3♥	All Pass	
Dble	3♠		

I believe South passed by accident, there can be no other explanation. The defence got off to a poor start when East led his singleton spade and West played his queen. Now declarer lost only three trumps and the ace of clubs for an improbable plus score. Though the Egyptian declarer must have wondered how many points they would lose on the board as both 3NT and Four Spades appear to be winning contracts.





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Closed Room

West	North	East	South
ElAhmady	Belkouch	Sadek	Berrada
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

When North discovers his side is missing a key-card could he not ask for the trump queen and if not present settle for the five-level. The contract required an awful lot well placed cards. Declarer was favoured with a trump lead won cheaply in hand and established some club tricks by leading the ♣K. Winning with the ace East exited with another club which declarer won in dummy. And then declarer drew the outstanding trumps taking the marked finesse. Now declarer needed the heart finesse and that was one bridge too far. With the gift of second sight the contract can be made by dropping the doubleton queen of diamonds and establishing the clubs by ruffing the club return. A fortunate 6 IMPs to Egypt.

Board 42. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ Q6		
♥ A2		
♦ QJ83		
♣ J9872		
♠ AJ109854		♠ 3
♥ J83		♥ 94
♦ AK		♦ 976542
♣ K		♣ Q1065
	♠ K72	
	♥ KQ10765	
	♦ 10	
	♣ A43	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hayet	Azzam	Sibony	Zein
–	–	Pass	1♥
1♠	Double	Pass	2♥
2♠	3♥	All Pass	

The defence started with two aces and West then had to decide as to whether to try and cash another diamond or give his partner a spade ruff. On the first trick East played the ♠3 and declarer the ♠2 and so it would appear that East has an odd number of spades and if you count the points it is improbable that East has the ♠K and thus has a singleton

so give partner a ruff and hope he returns a small diamond to play a third round of spades. Unfortunately West tried to cash a second diamond and now declarer made two overtricks rather than failing.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
ElAhmady	Belkouch	Sadek	Berrada
–	–	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♣	Pass	2♥
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
Double	All Pass		

East found the defence of a small spade to partner's ace and ruffed the return. A diamond back to West's king saw another spade ruffed in dummy but overruffed by East. There was still a trump trick available so the contract failed by a trick. A brave double by West as partner was responsible for three of the five defensive tricks. 9 IMPs to Egypt.

Board 47. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ 2		
♥ 76		
♦ Q7642		
♣ 105432		
♠ 104		♠ QJ9853
♥ AQ82		♥ KJ4
♦ AK		♦ 1095
♣ QJ987		♣ 6
	♠ AK76	
	♥ 10953	
	♦ J83	
	♣ AK	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hayet	Azzam	Sibony	Zein
–	–	–	1NT
Double	Redble*	2♦*	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

North's redouble was no doubt the start of a rescue operation. And the Two Diamond a request for a major. A spade went to South's king and a small one was returned for North to ruff. He returned a diamond taken in hand and when declarer played the ace of hearts he put himself in a delicate situation. He can recover by playing a club but he played another trump exposing the 4-2 split. Now he either loses control or gives up too many top tricks. When he played a trump it must be to an honour in dummy and then play a club. There are





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some variations when he overtakes dummy's last trump setting up a trump loser but he has good clubs to cash and so the defence only gets one more trick and thus declarer makes an overtrick rather than going down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>ELAhmady</i>	<i>Belkouch</i>	<i>Sadek</i>	<i>Berrada</i>
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Double
All Pass			

A daring intervention by East. I can understand South's Double as you would hope to make a couple of club tricks but it is not guaranteed. If you are right you gain 50 points, if you are wrong you lose 170 that's 2 IMPs against 5 IMPs so it needs to be the right decision over 70% of the time. And indeed this time the double failed. When South led the ace of clubs and followed with the king the contract was certain. Declarer ruffed and just played trumps and so came to ten tricks.

Board 48. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

	♠ 6	
	♥ AJ962	
	♦ 7	
	♣ AQ10643	
♠ QJ9	W N E S	♠ A10873
♥ KQ3		♥ 8
♦ K1084		♦ AQJ932
♣ K95		♣ 7
	♠ K542	
	♥ 10754	
	♦ 65	
	♣ J82	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hayet</i>	<i>Azzam</i>	<i>Sibony</i>	<i>Zein</i>
1♦	2♣	2♠	Pass
3♠	4♥	5♦	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

Having seen the auction I wondered by East did not try Four Spades, it is a known fit and has the merit of being only at the four-level and thus requiring one less trick. With the ♠K unluckily offside the contract failed by one trick. Four Spades could make except on the lead of the ♣J.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>ELAhmady</i>	<i>Belkouch</i>	<i>Sadek</i>	<i>Berrada</i>
1♦	1♥	1♠*	2♥
2♠	4♥	4♠	All Pass
1♠	5+♠		

With clubs never having been mentioned in the auction South led his partner's suit and the ace took the king. North not unnaturally returned a diamond and now declarer could discard his club on a top heart honour and then tackle trumps. He lost to the king but had the rest of the tricks and 13 IMPs to Egypt.

A slightly flattering score of 62-5 IMPs or 19.77-0.23 VPs was the final result and as an extra insult to Morocco they had a 0.5 VP penalty for late arrival and so were negative on the round.





Kenya vs. Morocco - Mixed

For our first round match of Day 4 we have chosen a match from the Mixed Championship and it features Kenya taking on Morocco, the latter is experiencing a surge up the order and will want to continue the momentum.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ J8	♠ J8	♠ Q4
♥ AQ85	♥ AQ85	♥ KJ1062
♦ J3	♦ J3	♦ 107
♣ 97432	♣ 97432	♣ AK108
♠ K97632	♠ K97632	♠ A105
♥ 43	♥ 43	♥ 97
♦ 9	♦ 9	♦ AKQ86542
♣ QJ65	♣ QJ65	♣ —

Open Room

West	North	East	South
T'Kint C	Bena	T'Kint P	Haria
—	Pass	1♥	2♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Redble
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦

All Pass

North was strangely mute after partner's determined approach to the auction. If I was South and in frivolous mood I might have tried a cheeky 3NT over the Two Spades bid, after all I do have nine tricks in my own hand, it can't fare that much worse than Three Diamonds. The lack of fortitude allowed declarer to make eleven tricks in a part-score.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Modi	Fatim	Shah	Bensouda
—	Pass	1♥	Double
1♠	1NT	2♣	5♦

All Pass

Stronger action got the partnership to game. To have any chance of beating the contract West has to lead a trump but naturally he led his partner's suit and so declarer quickly wrapped up eleven tricks and 7 IMPs to Morocco

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ AQ96	♠ 75
♥ —	♥ K653
♦ AK108764	♦ Q9
♣ 109	♣ A6543
♠ J8	♠ K10432
♥ Q109872	♥ AJ4
♦ —	♦ J532
♣ KQJ87	♣ 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
T'Kint C	Bena	T'Kint P	Haria
1♥	Double	2NT*	3♠
4♥	4♠	Double	All Pass

Not the world's most successful penalty double. To hold it to just one overtrick when West led her king of clubs East must overtake and return a diamond for a ruff. This means the spade slam can fail whereas the diamond slam is cold. Two double vulnerable overtricks were South's reward.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Modi	Fatim	Shah	Bensouda
2♥	3♦	3♥	3NT
4♥	4♠	5♥	5♠

All Pass

I learnt the rule that pre-emptor never speaks again unless forced. Had he passed might 3NT be the final contract – probably not – but stranger things have happened. If you do not give the opponents a chance to make a mistake then they will not. Declarer garnered twelve tricks but lost 11 IMPs to Kenya.





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Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ J64	♠ —
♥ AK96	♥ J108432
♦ 72	♦ A6
♣ J1095	
♠ Q10975	
♥ Q	
♦ QJ1093	
♣ Q6	♣ K8743
♠ AK832	
♥ 75	
♦ K854	
♣ A2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
T'Kint C	Bena	T'Kint P	Haria
—	Pass	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The 5-0 offside split in the trump suit meant that a reasonable contract had zero chance of success and ended two light.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Modi	Fatim	Shah	Bensouda
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	3♥	Double
Pass	4♠	5♣	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

I can imagine West's rising pulse rate when partner did not pass 4♠ smoothly. It was definitely a case of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory with the Five Clubs bid. Let us not dwell on the carnage that was the play and peacefully recall it failed by five tricks. 16 IMPs to Morocco

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 9532	♠ AKQ104
♥ 3	♥ J9654
♦ AKJ1065	♦ Q9
♣ 65	♣ 4
♠ —	
♥ AKQ102	
♦ 8732	
♣ AQ82	
♠ J876	
♥ 87	
♦ 4	
♣ KJ10973	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
T'Kint C	Bena	T'Kint P	Haria
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass

When East bid Four Hearts he denied a diamond control and so put the brakes on and there was no soaring to flights of fancy. Eleven easy tricks was the limit.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Modi	Fatim	Shah	Bensouda
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♥	3♦	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass

East made the cardinal error of applying Blackwood when you did not know that there were not two losers in a suit. Sure enough there were two diamond losers and they were the first two tricks for the defence and an easy 13 IMPs to Morocco.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ QJ742	♠ K1065
♥ AQ1072	♥ 654
♦ J	♦ AK854
♣ 105	
♠ 98	
♥ 8	
♦ Q10763	
♣ QJ976	♣ K
♠ A3	
♥ KJ93	
♦ 92	
♣ A8432	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
T'Kint C	Bena	T'Kint P	Haria
—	Pass	1♦	Double
3♦	3♠	All Pass	

As to why South doubled with his hand is a mystery to me, but I am a dinosaur when it comes to what I learnt about takeout doubles. As was expected North bid his spades and now you were missing the best contract. To add insult to self-inflicted injury declarer failed by one trick.





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Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Modi</i>	<i>Fatim</i>	<i>Shah</i>	<i>Bensouda</i>
–	1♠	2♦	Double
3♦	3♥	Pass	4♥

All Pass

After North deemed her hand worth an opening bid it was not difficult to reach the heart game. East attempted to cash two diamonds but declarer ruffed the second with the ♥7 and after cashing two rounds of trumps by playing the ♥10 to the jack and the ♥3 to the ace, took a successful spade finesse. The ace of spades was cashed before playing ace and another club, West winning the second round and played a third round which declarer ruffed with the ♥2 and was overruffed – quite an achievement when the hearts were solid down to the ♥9. East had a choice between returning a diamond giving a ruff and discard or playing a spade. Perhaps on auto-pilot East did not want to give a ruff and discard and so played a spade to allow declarer to recover from her unusual plays in the trump suit. A fortunate 10 IMPs to Morocco.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ Q863		
♥ K105		
♦ 973		
♣ A109		
♠ 954		♠ A10
♥ 9743		♥ 86
♦ K1082		♦ AQJ54
♣ 85		♣ J732
		♠ KJ72
		♥ AQJ2
		♦ 6
		♣ KQ64

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>T'Kint C</i>	<i>Bena</i>	<i>T'Kint P</i>	<i>Haria</i>
–	Pass	1♦	Double
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠

All Pass

At last a takeout double which gets my full approval! North may have a rather depressing distribution but when I was a boy with eight or more points one replied at the two-level. In this case South would have gone to game. As should North when partner raised her bid. Declarer had only two losers so made three overtricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Modi</i>	<i>Fatim</i>	<i>Shah</i>	<i>Bensouda</i>
–	Pass	1♦	Double
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠

All Pass

As predicted above – a gift of 10 IMPs to Morocco. The final score was 74-26 IMPs to Morocco or 18.97-1.03 VPs.





Egypt vs. South Africa - Senior

Yet again Egypt and South Africa clash in the Senior Championships on Day 4 Round 2. Egypt are beginning to break clear and South Africa are now in a tussle with Morocco for second place.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ Q54		
♥ Q852		
♦ AQJ8		
♣ KJ		
♠ AJ986		♠ K103
♥ K107		♥ A43
♦ 2		♦ 943
♣ Q1064		♣ A983
	♠ 72	
	♥ J96	
	♦ K10765	
	♣ 752	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Minwalla	Azzam	Pincus	Zein
-	-	1♣	Pass
1♠	Double	Redble	3♦
4♠	All Pass		
Redble	3♠		

When declarer finessed against South for the trump queen he was one down. A reasonable choice as it North who had doubled and presumably shown a shortage in the black suits.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sadek	Chemaly	ElAhmady	Grant
-	-	Pass	Pass
1♠	1NT*	Double	Redble*
Pass	2♣*	Double	2♦
3♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass
Redble	SOS		

After this auction it was not difficult to read North for the trump queen and so declarer had his ten tricks, his game and 10 IMPs to Egypt.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A		
♥ AK652		
♦ AQ87		
♣ AK8		
♠ 9742		♠ KQ10653
♥ 73		♥ 9
♦ KJ943		♦ 652
♣ 74		♣ J92
	♠ J8	
	♥ QJ1084	
	♦ 10	
	♣ Q10653	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Minwalla	Azzam	Pincus	Zein
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦
Double*	3NT	All Pass	
2♣	game forcing		

Should/could South do anything after the 3NT bid? If so what? I do not profess to have the answer but when there is a cold grand slam available then there is something wrong somewhere. After the diamond lead and kind layout of the clubs thirteen tricks were quickly gathered.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sadek	Chemaly	ElAhmady	Grant
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦
Double	Redble	Pass	2♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Bear in mind South might have bid that with a zero count and just four hearts can South make the 'master' bid of the grand slam. I am not sure I would be that brave but 12 IMPs to South Africa.





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Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ A76		♠ K9842
♥ K9643		♥ —
♦ 972		♦ Q108
♣ 42		♣ KQ873
♠ QJ3	N W E S	♠ 105
♥ AJ7		♥ Q10852
♦ A653		♦ KJ4
♣ AJ5		♣ 1096

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Minwalla</i>	<i>Azzam</i>	<i>Pincus</i>	<i>Zein</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Even though maximum West with his bland shape had no interest in going further than game and it proved to be the correct decision. After a diamond lead declarer lost the two obvious tricks of a diamond and a trump so finished with an overtrick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sadek</i>	<i>Chemaly</i>	<i>ElAhmady</i>	<i>Grant</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4♦	Pass	6♣	All Pass

I am afraid I cannot explain the auction as the convention card does not go beyond Two Hearts is a transfer. However I am always impressed when the final contract is in a new suit at the six-level. Unfortunately there was no possibility of a twelfth trick so one light and eleven IMPs to South Africa

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 6		♠ KJ8
♥ J9832		♥ AQ10754
♦ KQ		♦ 1065
♣ A7654		♣ J
♠ A754	N W E S	♠ Q10932
♥ —		♥ K6
♦ A9874		♦ J32
♣ KQ82		♣ 1093

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Minwalla</i>	<i>Azzam</i>	<i>Pincus</i>	<i>Zein</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led a fourth best ♣4 and the jack in dummy won, a diamond was ducked to North's king and a spade followed to jack, queen and ace. Another diamond was ducked and again North won and this time exited with a heart and West made the wrong decision when he inserted the queen to South's king. The ♣10 was returned and North ducked declarer's king. Now West cashed three rounds of diamonds. West does not know it but he can make his contract by playing the queen of clubs, but that is very much a double dummy play. As nothing good happened in the major suits declarer finished one off.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sadek</i>	<i>Chemaly</i>	<i>ElAhmady</i>	<i>Grant</i>
1♦	1♥	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

This was not a happy contract there was very little declarer could do to ameliorate the situation. Sometimes life gives you lemons, when it does you just have to suck it up and hope that next time it happens you have a G & T in your hand awaiting such lemons. Declarer held the loss to three off but that was 12 IMPs to Egypt.

The final score was 38-31 IMPs to Egypt or 12.03- 7.97 VPs.

