



AFRICAN BRIDGE FEDERATION 14TH AFRICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Online – 2026 ♦ ♥ ♣ ♠

From 5th – 19th September 2026



RealBridge

Bulletin 9

Thursday 17th September

Editor Ron Tacchi

We Have Passed The Halfway Mark

With more than half of the Round Robin completed we are beginning to see a pattern emerging. In the Open Championship three teams are beginning to break away from the other three and the Women Championship is following suit. In both events those not in the top three need to make a determined effort if they wish to go to Barbados.

In the Open, **South Africa** had a good day winning all three matches and have opened up a sizeable gap ahead of **Egypt**. In third we have **Kenya** who also won all three of their matches and have gone from 22 points behind second place to only seven.

In the Women, it is **Egypt** at the top nearly a match ahead of **Morocco** but **South Africa** in third is less than one point behind.

Standings

Open Team	VPs	Position
South Africa	129.04	1
Egypt	113.70	2
Kenya	106.04	3
Tunisia	91.18	4
Reunion	56.16	5
Morocco	43.38	6

Women Team	VPs	Position
Egypt	119.40	1
Morocco	102.24	2
South Africa	101.69	3
Tunisia	89.14	4
Reunion	55.53	5

All information can be found on the website:

www.bridgewebs.com/abf/





Schedule for Thursday 17th September

Note all times are GMT

Open Championship

R.R (03)		Match (05), 09H00			RR(03),Match (01), 12H30			Match (02), 15H30		
Date	Table No.	Home Team	X	Visiting Team	Home Team	X	Visiting Team	Home Team	X	Visiting Team
THU 17-Sep	1	2 TUN	x	1 RSA	1 Team #1	x	6 Team #6	5 Team #5	x	1 Team #1
	2	6 KEN	x	3 EGY	2 Team #2	x	5 Team #5	6 Team #6	x	4 Team #4
	3	5 REU	x	4 MOR	3 Team #3	x	4 Team #4	2 Team #2	x	3 Team #3

Women Championship

R.R (03)		Match (05), 09H00			RR(03),Match (01), 12H30			Match (02), 15H30		
Date	Table No.	Home Team	X	Visiting Team	Home Team	X	Visiting Team	Home Team	X	Visiting Team
THU 17-Sep	4	2 RSA	x	1 TUN	1 Team #1	x	6 Team #6	5 Team #5	x	1 Team #1
	5	6 --	x	3 MOR	2 Team #2	x	5 Team #5	6 Team #6	x	4 Team #4
	6	5 REU	x	4 EGY	3 Team #3	x	4 Team #4	2 Team #2	x	3 Team #3

Results

Open Championship

Session 1	VPs
South Africa - Reunion	15.38-4.62
Morocco - Kenya	4.08-15.92
Egypt - Tunisia	20-0
Session 2	
Morocco - South Africa	2.83-17.17
Egypt - Reunion	15.92-4.08
Tunisia - Kenya	6.18-13.52
Session 3	
South Africa - Egypt	13.52-6.48
Tunisia - Morocco	3.91-16.09
Kenya - Reunion	18.21-1.79

Women Championship

Session 1	VPs
Tunisia - Reunion	17.17-2.83
Egypt - Bye	12-0
Morocco - South Africa	14.60-5.40
Session 2	
Egypt - Tunisia	13.28-6.72
Morocco - Reunion	8.24-11.76
South Africa - Bye	12-0
Session 3	
Tunisia - Morocco	12.29-7.71
South Africa - Egypt	5.82-14.18
Bye - Reunion	0 - 12





Reunion vs. South Africa - Women

The last match from the second day features the South Africa Women taking on Reunion.

Board 35. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K543	♠ J87	♠ A9
♥ 10932	♥ K854	♥ AQ7
♦ KQJ4	♦ A7	♦ 1098652
♣ 9	♣ AQ83	♣ 64
		♠ Q1062
		♥ J6
		♦ 3
		♣ KJ10752

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Armstrong	Aouate	Balderson	Wan Hoi
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♠
2♣*	Double	3♦	4♣
5♦	Double	All Pass	

Two Clubs appears to be a club control and diamond support and North's double presumably showed hearts as well as clubs. When the music stopped East was left in the minor suit game. What was South to lead? It was self-evident there would not be many, if any, club tricks to be had and partner had advertised some strength in hearts and so she put her faith in that suit and led the jack of hearts. Unfortunately this was the only suit to gift the contract to declarer as now there were no heart losers.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
De Pauw	Foaden	Michaux	Kenny
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Here there was no danger of finding the wrong lead against the game contract as the opposition did not even enter the auction. Had East found a bid of Three Diamonds over the club raise that would have saved only 1 IMP.

Board 38. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ Q8	♠ K105
♥ AQJ10954	♥ K876
♦ AK7	♦ 95
♣ Q	♣ AK98
♠ J62	♠ A9743
♥ 32	♥ –
♦ Q10642	♦ J83
♣ 762	♣ J10543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Armstrong	Aouate	Balderson	Wan Hoi
–	–	1♣	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

I was sure that many North's would have made the same bid and when I checked the results eight tables were in Four Hearts, one rested in a part-score and the other saw the opposition sacrifice in Four Spades. The defence got off to the right lead of a top club, my finessing friend tells me the only sure way to beat the contract is to then exit with a trump, slightly counter-intuitive but you can see the logic is basically not to help declarer with any other lead. However East switched to the ♦9 and declarer won with the ace. Would you believe me if I said that the double dummy solver says that to make the contract she must duck this trick! If you bother to play out the hand you will find that eventually East will be squeezed in the black suits to allow the contract to make. If you did that, write and tell me and you will get your name in capitals and colour in the bulletin. Back to the actual play – declarer did not cover the ♦9 with the ♦J, had she done so she would have had finesse position against the ♦Q. She now played ace and queen of hearts, East immediately taking the king and exiting with a diamond setting up a trick for the defence. Now declarer was without resource, the count had not been rectified for the squeeze and so she went down. Had she played the ♦J and East had exited a second time with a diamond then the contract





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could have made an overtrick as the squeeze would have operated.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
De Pauw	Foaden	Michaux	Kenny
–	–	1♣	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Again the ace of clubs was led and the switch to the ♦9 was made. This time declarer covered the with the jack. East took her trump king on the third round of the suit and tried to cash the king of clubs. Now declarer's losing spade went away on a winning club bringing home the contract and 10 IMPs to South Africa.

A string of small part-score swings saw South Africa lead by 15 IMPs and then we came to the last four boards.

Board 45. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ AJ8	♠ 10632	♠ 9754
♥ 1076	♥ J5	♥ KQ983
♦ QJ95	♦ 107	♦ 32
♣ Q72	♣ KJ863	♣ 105
	♠ KQ	
	♥ A42	
	♦ AK864	
	♣ A94	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Armstrong	Aouate	Balderson	Wan Hoi
–	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West chose the queen of diamonds for her opening lead and would have been pleased to see the doubleton ♦10 in dummy. Declarer won in hand and played a club to the jack and now made the slightly strange move of running the ♦10 to the jack. West exited with a heart and declarer took the third round. Maybe believing the diamonds were 3-3 declarer cashed the king of diamonds and then four clubs but West hung onto her good diamond and the ace of spades to defeat the contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
De Pauw	Foaden	Michaux	Kenny
–	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Same auction and same lead. Declarer took the ace and cashed five tricks in clubs with the aid of the finesse whilst she discarded two hearts as did West. Declarer can now guarantee the contract by playing a spade but for reasons that are not apparent to me she decided to run the ♦10 to West's jack. When West exited with a heart declarer had the enormous good fortune that while West had the ace of spades she did not have another heart to defeat a solid contract. A fortunate 12 IMPs to South Africa.

Board 47. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ Q84	♠ 107532	♠ AJ
♥ QJ832	♥ AK4	♥ 1097
♦ 974	♦ KJ3	♦ Q1085
♣ Q3	♣ A7	♣ J1064
	♠ K96	
	♥ 65	
	♦ A62	
	♣ K9852	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Armstrong	Aouate	Balderson	Wan Hoi
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East got off to the best lead when she found the ♥10, declarer correctly ducked this but took the continuation. A small spade from hand saw East rise with her ace and clear the heart suit. Declarer now played another spade and when East produced the jack she won with the king and then played another to set up two winners, unfortunately West took this and cashed two hearts to defeat the contract by one trick.





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Closed Room

West	North	East	South
De Pauw	Foaden	Michaux	Kenny
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Same auction but this time East chose a diamond, a lead which cost both a trick and a tempo. Declarer had to decide which black suit to attack and chose clubs and so played ace, king and a third round. East now exited with a heart which declarer ducked but took the continuation to play a spade towards the king and it held the trick. Now a club established the thirteenth as the ninth trick as long as the defenders could not cash two spades and declarer was fortunate in that regard. 12 IMPs to South Africa.

Board 48. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 5	♠ K	♠ AQ10984
♥ KJ65	♥ AQ732	♥ 94
♦ QJ5	♦ K106	♦ 83
♣ J10642	♣ AQ98	♣ K53
	♠ J7632	
	♥ 108	
	♦ A9742	
	♣ 7	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Armstrong	Aouate	Balderson	Wan Hoi
Pass	1♥	2♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Unaware of her partner's strong holdings it was difficult for South to transform the double into penalties. Declarer quickly set up a crossruff after the spade lead and came to ten easy tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
De Pauw	Foaden	Michaux	Kenny
Pass	1♥	2♠	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

South formed the opinion that her hand was suited to defend a spade contract, also the vulnerability was in her favour, if game was possible for her side it would seem that a spade contract would fail by at least two tricks and therefore her decision would show a profit. Declarer let the ♥10 lead hold the trick but South continued a heart to partner's queen. Declarer was slated to fail by three tricks even though the spade king was singleton, South could score her trumps by ruffing. 12 IMPs to South Africa.

In the last four boards South Africa scored 36 unanswered IMPs thereby winning the match 68-17 IMPs or 19.25-0.75 VPs.

Player Eligibility for Titles, Medals, and Masterpoints

Players are reminded of Clause 3.5 Conditions of Contest

To be eligible to receive championship titles, official medals, or WBF/ABF Masterpoints, each team's player must participate in a minimum of 50% of the total matches (or boards) played by their team throughout the championship. This rule is enforced in accordance with the standard World Bridge Federation (WBF) eligibility guidelines. Players failing to meet this minimum play requirement will not be awarded titles, medals, or masterpoints, regardless of their team's final ranking.





Egypt vs. Tunisia – Open

The first match from Day 3 features Egypt and Tunisia in the Open Championship, They currently rest third and second in the standings, a good win for either team will massively increase their chances of going to Barbados.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ AKQ5	♠ 10
♥ Q102	♥ 94
♦ K732	♦ J10954
♣ QJ	♣ 98642
♠ J98732	♠ 64
♥ AK876	♥ J53
♦ 8	♦ AQ6
♣ 7	♣ AK1053

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mehdi	Amiry	Chedly	Samir
–	–	Pass	1♣
2♦*	3NT	All Pass	
2♦	majors		

East led the ♥9 and West ducked to preserve communications between the two hands should East have an entry, unfortunately East did not possess such a thing and the upshot was that West was mercilessly squeezed in the majors to give declarer all thirteen tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hamam	Moez	Omran	Anis
–	–	Pass	1NT*
2♣*	6NT	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		
1NT	14-17		
2♣	majors		

West was not hard pressed to find the best defence and the contract was one off after trick two. Maybe North was a little gourmand when partner might (and did) have a fourteen count, perhaps a quantitative try of 4NT would have avoided the no hope slam. 14 IMPs to Egypt

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ J9	♠ 643
♥ KQJ6	♥ 109753
♦ AK5	♦ 987
♣ J1053	♣ A6
♠ Q2	♠ AK10875
♥ A842	♥ –
♦ Q10643	♦ J2
♣ 98	♣ KQ742

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mehdi	Amiry	Chedly	Samir
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	6♣	All Pass	
2♣	GF		
3♥	splinter agreeing clubs		
4♦/♥	cue-bids		

The club slam is better than one in spades as if there is a spade loser you cannot overcome the distribution but in clubs you should not have a spade loser. The defence was without resource and declarer very quickly racked up twelve tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hamam	Moez	Omran	Anis
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

With his four loser hand opposite a two-level response to his opening bid and a five-card fit for his partner's suit I think South could have made a bit more of an effort. There were the same cold twelve tricks available so 11 IMPs to Egypt.





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Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ AKJ1082	♠ Q95	♠ 4
♥ A108	♥ K4	♥ J972
♦ Q106	♦ 4	♦ AK853
♣ 9	♣ AKJ10762	♣ 843
	♠ 763	
	♥ Q653	
	♦ J972	
	♣ Q5	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mehdi	Amiry	Chedly	Samir
-	1♣	1♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North played the king then the ace of clubs, declarer ruffing. Declarer went for the maximum by playing the ♦10 to the ace and taking a losing finesse in trumps, another club forced declarer to ruff. He then drew trumps and when the diamonds refused to break kindly he had to lose two heart tricks and was thus one off.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hamam	Moez	Omran	Anis
-	1♣	1♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Again the lead was two rounds of clubs. This declarer took a safer route to his game, he merely played three rounds of trumps, North winning the third and exiting with a club. Declarer ruffed and cashed the queen of diamonds and when North showed out on the ♦10 declarer let it ride to South's jack but now dummy's three diamonds were good so his heart losers evaporated. Well played, 10 IMPs to Egypt.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ J3	♠ A10984	♠ 72
♥ Q	♥ K1032	♥ A954
♦ QJ108654	♦ 9	♦ AK72
♣ Q75	♣ AK6	♣ 832
	♠ KQ65	
	♥ J876	
	♦ 3	
	♣ J1094	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mehdi	Amiry	Chedly	Samir
-	-	1♦	Pass
3♦	Double	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

West led the singleton queen of hearts and when declarer covered East took the ace and returned a heart for West to ruff. A diamond to East's king saw another heart ruffed. The club exit was taken in hand and trumps drawn and declarer spurned the club finesse in favour of dropping the doubleton queen of clubs offside. I can see why declarer played that way but it was the wrong choice and so one off.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hamam	Moez	Omran	Anis
-	-	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♠	Double	3♦*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
3♦	bergen		

East led the ace of diamonds on which West played the queen, perhaps a signal for a heart but unfortunately East only partially got the message and played a small one so West's queen lost to declarer's king and now trumps were drawn and with the help of the club finesse only a heart was left to lose so an overtrick was made and 11 IMPs to Tunisia.





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Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ A 10 6		
♥ KJ653		
♦ 10 8		
♣ A 10 7		
♠ 8 7 4 2		♠ K 9 3
♥ 4 2		♥ 9 8
♦ J 4		♦ 9 5 3 2
♣ J 6 4 3 2		♣ K Q 8 5
		♠ Q J 5
		♥ A Q 10 7
		♦ A K Q 7 6
		♣ 9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mehdi	Amiry	Chedly	Samir
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♥

All Pass

2NT jacyby four card support

I cannot describe accurately to you the bidding after the Jacoby 2NT response but when North found two keycards and the queen of trumps in the South hand he made a further effort and South knowing that all the controls were present could envisage the grand slam. When the diamond suit could be established for two spade discards the grand slam rolled home.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hamam	Moez	Omran	Anis
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT*
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♥	All Pass	
2NT	jacoby		

I believe Four Hearts was the weakest bid available to North. After the blackwood enquiry South knows that North holds five hearts to the king and the two black aces and I believe after the Four Hearts response neither a singleton nor another four-card suit. If that is that is the situation then you can virtually count thirteen tricks. You will fail if North started with three diamonds and they split 4-1 but then you still have the spade finesse in reserve. When thirteen tricks arrived it was 11

IMPs to Egypt.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mehdi	Amiry	Chedly	Samir
–	–	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

I think the majority of pairs will ne in 3NT. North led a spade and South's king lost to declarer's ace. South took his ace of trumps at the first opportunity and fired back a spade to dummy's queen. A trump back to hand revealed the unkind break. If declarer simply crosses to dummy with a diamond he can draw the remaining trumps and with the diamonds being good for four tricks (chances 52%) the contract would succeed. However declarer took three rounds of diamonds finishing in hand and when he played the thirteenth South ruffed and returned her singleton club to North who provided a club for a ruff and the setting trick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hamam	Moez	Omran	Anis
–	–	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

As predicted above ten of the twelve tables preferred 3NT to the heart contract. The opening lead of the ♣4 did not hurt declarer's chances when the queen appeared from South. In fact the defence was now limited to its two aces – two overtricks. 13 IMPs to Egypt.





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Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ KQ96	♠ 87	♠ J1032
♥ A86	♥ 5	♥ KQJ103
♦ A65	♦ KQJ987	♦ 1032
♣ KJ5	♣ Q942	♣ 10

♠ A54	♠ A54
♥ 9742	♥ 9742
♦ 4	♦ 4
♣ A8763	♣ A8763

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mehdi	Amiry	Chedly	Samir
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	3♦	Double	Pas
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

North led his singleton Heart and dummy's king won the trick. A small trump from dummy saw South rise with the ace and play a heart to declarer's ace which was ruffed by North. The king of diamonds was taken by declarer's ace and when North showed out on the king of trumps declarer played two rounds of hearts discarding a diamond.

Dummy's ♠10 held the next trick and the last heart cashed. Declarer now had to guess the club situation to bring home the contract when the ♣10 ran round to the queen declarer was one off.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hamam	Moez	Omran	Anis
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	2♣*	Double	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
2♣	♦		

The play went the same way until the club suit was breached but this declarer played South for the ace and so was successful and gained 10 IMPs for Egypt.

At the end of the match Egypt had six double figure swings in their favour so it was no surprise that they won 20-0 VPs.

Seating at Start of Session

Please remember that the visiting team should be seated at its table at least ten minutes before start time and that the home team should then take their places at least five minutes before play begins.

Yesterday we had penalties and others were very close. Full details can be found in the conditionsof contest Clause 35.





Morocco vs. South Africa – Open

The second match of the day saw Open leaders South Africa pitted against Morocco. South Africa had won their opening match and would hope to continue on an upward trajectory after the previous day's disappointing results.

Board 17. Dealer North, None Vul.

♠ A8		
♥ A		
♦ 743		
♣ J1098532		
♠ 74		♠ QJ10962
♥ J107		♥ KQ4
♦ AJ1086		♦ K2
♣ AQ7		♣ K6
		♠ K53
		♥ 986532
		♦ Q95
		♣ 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sbili</i>	<i>Fick</i>	<i>Chaouki</i>	<i>Eber</i>
–	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

After winning the opening club lead in dummy declarer just attacked the spade suit and soon had nine tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Chraibi</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Ammor</i>
–	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Double	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

After a scientific auction I am not entirely sure why North craved a club lead but it ensured South led the ♣4. Declarer won in dummy with the ace and led a trump, North ducking and South taking the king and exiting with a diamond, dummy's ♦10 holding the trick. Another spade from dummy allowed North to take the ace and fire back a club for South to ruff and beat the contract. The question to ask is whether after the double of Three

Clubs was South's ♣4 a singleton? If you think the answer is yes then can you make your contract? I believe it is possible, after winning the club lead in hand cash the king of diamonds and then take the diamond finesse and when it holds pray/play for the diamonds to be 3-3 and discard a club, now you can attack trumps and with the ♠8 being doubleton there is no possibility of a trump promotion. You would need to be very, very certain that the club lead was a singleton to adopt that line of play. 10 IMPs to Morocco.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A		
♥ K873		
♦ K9432		
♣ K107		
♠ K752		♠ 93
♥ AJ105		♥ 642
♦ Q107		♦ AJ8
♣ 86		♣ Q9543
		♠ QJ10864
		♥ Q9
		♦ 65
		♣ AJ2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sbili</i>	<i>Fick</i>	<i>Chaouki</i>	<i>Eber</i>
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

After a light opening by South North was staying out of game and bid everyone's favourite. The opening lead of the ♣4 did not damage declarer's chance and he carefully won with the king of clubs. The ace of spades was cashed and a small club to the jack took trick three, we can see why now it was important to win the first trick with the king, otherwise an alert East would have inserted the queen and declarer would have had only one entry to dummy and thus could never enjoy the long spades. Declarer now established the spades, West waiting till the final moment before taking his king and then played a diamond. When declarer tried the king East took the ace and had he returned the





suit declarer was down in top tricks but he exited with a club to dummy. Dummy's established spades were cashed and West did not read the cards and kept two hearts and one diamond so when a heart was led he won with the ace and could cash a top diamond but had to give the last trick to dummy's queen of hearts. A fortunate successful game.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Chraibi</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Ammor</i>
–	–	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Knowing there was just a weak two (albeit a very strong one) opposite North had no ideas of bidding game. The contract passed off peacefully but that was 10 IMPs to South Africa

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ AK92
 ♥ K3
 ♦ J974
 ♣ K42

♠ J1073
 ♥ 8
 ♦ AKQ6
 ♣ A1098

♠ Q5
 ♥ J97652
 ♦ 53
 ♣ 765

♠ 864
 ♥ AQ104
 ♦ 1082
 ♣ QJ3

N
 W E
 S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sbili</i>	<i>Fick</i>	<i>Chaouki</i>	<i>Eber</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	1NT	2♦*	Double
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
2♦	♥		

Another light point count no-trump game. East led partner's suit, whereupon West took three rounds of the suit and exited with the fourth round. Declarer established the two club tricks and with East having advertised a heart suit in what not difficult for declarer to play him for the jack of hearts and so score four heart tricks and his contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Chraibi</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Ammor</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	Pass	2♥*	Pass
Pass	2♠	All Pass	
2♥	weak		

When North could find nothing to say on the first round of bidding it was going to be nigh on impossible to reach the best contract. With three diamonds, two trumps and a club to lose the contract was doomed to one light for 10 IMPs to South Africa.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 1072
♥ AJ7
♦ 93
♣ KQ852

♠ AK5
♥ KQ6532
♦ K10
♣ 76

♠ QJ98
♥ 4
♦ 654
♣ A10943

♠ 643
♥ 1098
♦ AQJ872
♣ J

W N E S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sbili</i>	<i>Fick</i>	<i>Chaouki</i>	<i>Eber</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	3♦
Double	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

South led the jack of clubs taken by declarer's ace and the ♥4 went towards dummy's honours but North won with the ace, cashed king of clubs and continued with another for South to ruff with the ♠6 to force a top honour from dummy. The queen of hearts was cashed and another ruffed in hand. A diamond was played towards dummy's king but South hopped up with the ace and my immediate instinct was to say lead a trump, but this defence does not work, the basic problem is that now hearts are established and there is a diamond entry, declarer could just take two rounds of trumps finishing in dummy and then lead hearts and now all North can do is take his master trump whenever he wants. South exited with a diamond and now declarer can make his contract on a cross-ruff because of the very specific way the trump pips are distributed. Declarer did not play for this





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magical layout and so failed by one trick. The only way to beat the contract by force is to initially lead diamonds to take that precious entry off dummy.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Chraibi</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Ammor</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	3♦
Double	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Again the jack of clubs was led, won in hand, heart led, king of clubs cashed. Now the lines differed North played a diamond to South's ace and dummy took the diamond return. Declarer ruffed a heart in hand and noted the kindly break and now staked all on a similar split in the trump suit. He was rewarded with his game bonus when that turned out to be the distribution. 10 IMPs to South Africa.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 42		
♥ Q87		
♦ KJ976		
♣ J108		
♠ Q9		♠ AKJ105
♥ 53		♥ K1064
♦ AQ102		♦ 543
♣ KQ973		♣ 6
	♠ 8763	
	♥ AJ92	
	♦ 8	
	♣ A542	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sbili</i>	<i>Fick</i>	<i>Chaouki</i>	<i>Eber</i>
-	-	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

After the lead of the ♦7 it looks as though declarer has a minimum of eight tricks as a club can simply be established by force. Things are not always as they appear. After winning the opening lead with the ♦10 declarer set about trying to establish his ninth trick. When he led the king of clubs this was allowed to hold. He now tried the heart suit with a small one to the king but South took the ace and returned a club, had declarer risen with the king he would have succeeded but he played small and North won and he exited with a spade to declarer's queen. Another attempt was to play a small club hoping to drop the ace but North won with the ♣J and cashed the queen of hearts and played another whereby South cashed three more tricks for the unlikely result of minus three.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Chraibi</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Ammor</i>
-	-	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Again the ♦7 was led and won by declarer's ♦10 and a diamond was immediately fired back, North winning with the ♦6 with South discarding a club. North switched to the jack of clubs declarer taking the trick with the king and playing back the queen which South won with the ace. Not wanting to broach either of the majors South returned a club to North's ♣10. It was decision time for North as to in which he should exit and to declarer's delight he chose spades and this led to the rest of the tricks being taken, so plus one was recorded. A difference of four tricks from the other table. 11 IMPs to South Africa.

At the end of the match South Africa had won 53-20 IMPs or 17.17-2.83 VPs. South Africa had steadied the ship and hope to finish the day in a similar vein.





Roster - Open Teams

Egypt

Captain

Moaz Hammam

Moaz Hammam

Amr Farrag

Ahmed Omran

Ahmed Monir

Ahmed Samir

Reda Amiry

Kenya

Captain

Bijal Shah

Bijal Shah

Kamal Shah

Rakesh Sharma

Bhanumati Shah

Morocco

Captain

Adnane Ammor Mohammed

Adnane Ammor Mohammed

Mohamed Benali

Mohammed Chraibi

Chaouki Bensaid

Said Badri

Tariq Sbili

Reunion

Captain

Christian Giraud

Christian Giraud

Narguis Huseinali

Patrick Hamel

Philippe Lagache

Marie-Thérèse Boyer

Patrick Schilli

South Africa

Captain

Robert Stephens

Robert Stephens

Neville Eber

Hennie Fick

Alon Apteker

Craig Gower

Jude Apteker

Tunisia

Captain

Faycel Bouksiaa

Monia Klibi

Ahmed Kchaou

Anis Ghodhbane

Mehdi Klibi

Hedi Ben Chedly

Moez Fourati





Roster - Women Teams

Egypt

Captain

Alain Audiche

Hoda Soliman

Nadia Taymour

Nessrine Hamdy

Dina El Awady

Christina Audiche

Morocco

Captain

Abderrahim Tazi

Leila Sekkat

Khadija Marrakchi

Fatim Lahlou

Samira Tber

Farida Guerraoui

Hayat Hachimi

Reunion

Captain

Catherine Aouate

Catherine Aouate

Régine Wan Hoi

Danièle Michaux

Denise Bauquier

Geneviève Vigna

Anne-Marie De Paux

South Africa

Captain

Peta Balderson

Peta Balderson

Jennifer Foaden

Nicola Bateman

Vanessa Armstrong

Val Bloom

Renee Kenny

Tunisia

Captain

Aziz Mohsen

Hedia Sellami

Ferdous Trabelsi

Jalila Ghodhbane

Alia Fourati

Najeh Linda

