



Morocco Deny Egypt Clean Sweep



The winning Moroccan Senior Team (from left to right) Said Berrada, Abekamel Rerhaye, Abdellah El Ghrari, Jean Hayet, Guy Cambournac and Khalil Bensouda

ET DE DEUX POUR LE MAROC

On this last day of our Zonal Championships, the defending Champion (Casablanca 2019) has insisted to retain the "Africa Champion" title by winning the gold medal in the Seniors category (twice in a row); we did not watch thrilling encounters today but our biggest satisfaction has been to offer our players and NBOs a successful event during these difficult times.

On behalf of the African Bridge Federation, I would like to congratulate Morocco and Egypt for their qualification to the World Seniors Teams Championships (Senior d'Orsi Trophée) next year in Italy.

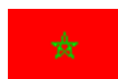
I would like to note the first two pairs who led the Butler : **Mr. Abdellah El Ghrari** and **Mr Jean Hayet** with an average of 0.85 Imps and 176 played boards followed by **Mr. Amr Farrag** and **Mr. Adel El Kordy** with an average of 0.79 Imps/board and 144 played boards.

Hard luck to Kenya, Reunion and South Africa; South Africa reaches the podium.

Bernard Pascal



The second team qualifying for the d'Orsi Cup, Egypt (from left to right) Mohamed Tanbouli, Ashraf Wahdan, Adel El Kordy, Amr Farrag, Mohamed El Baz and Ayman Azzam





A Message From Our President

TO ALL PLAYERS

The 11th edition of our Zonal Championships has now ended and, on behalf of the African Bridge Federation, I would like to thank all players first for having offered us a very enjoyable couple of weeks full of thrilling moments but, more importantly, a friendly gathering where we have met again albeit virtually. I was personally pleased to see all our friends from everywhere and have a few “chats” whilst waiting for the boards to appear on the screen during the Pairs event.

Once again, I would like to congratulate all qualified countries and their Teams : Egypt, Morocco, South Africa and Tunisia as well as the South African Players who mastered the Pairs event; very well done to Egypt who has qualified in all four categories with three gold medals; The ABF will manage to send all Medals in due time to each NBO.

TO ALL NBOs

I would like to express our gratitude for your vast contribution to the success of our event; you have followed suit in all our recommendations and ensured participants were playing in optimum conditions; a particular mention to Kenya who was constrained by their covid-related conditions and yet managed to play during the two weeks. Thank you James, Ashraf, Abdellatif, Moncef, Samina and Samira, Patrick and a special thank you to Morocco Past President, Chafika who was keen to attend almost the entirety of the Championships at the venue in Casablanca.

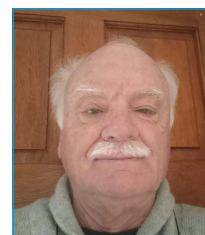
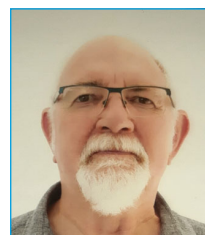
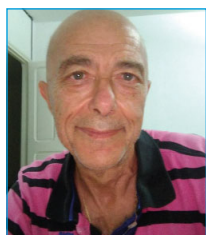
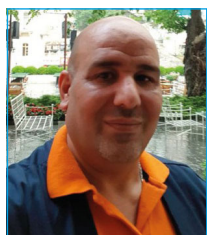
See you all at our next 12th edition of our Zone 8 Trials.

Bernard Pascal





Acknowledgement And Gratitude



TDs , Bulletin Editor & Monitors (from left to right) Raad Ootom, Roland Ponzini, Tarek AbdelRahman, Ron Tacchi, Andre Truter and James Grant

For this, our last edition of the “Daily Bulletin”, it is about time to warmly thank all our friends and contributors to the success of our Zonal Championships.

Our Tournament Directors

Raad Ootom (Jordan)

Roland Ponzini (Tunisia)

Tarek AbdelRahman (Egypt)

Our Bulletin Editor

Ron Tacchi

Our On-site Monitors

Andre Truter (Cape Town, South Africa)

James Grant (Johannesburg, South Africa)

Farida Malik (Kenya)

Ibrahim El Sebahi (Egypt)

Saad Lebbar (Morocco)

Mahdi Ben Abdalah (Tunisia)

Jean-Claude Cador (Reunion)

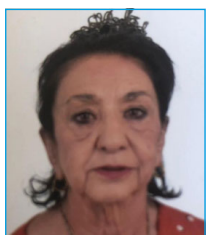
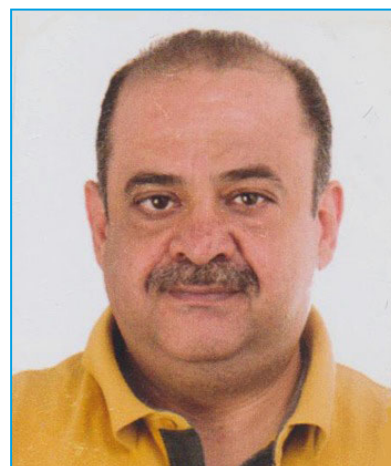
Jean-Luc NEULAT (Reunion)

Last but not least, our Jack of all Trades, our chef d’Orchestre, our CTD,
Waleed El Menyawi

Without you, this championship would not have existed, you have all done a great job and allowed all our countries to participate in a very successful event. Our Zone is truly honoured to have you.

Thank you so much,

Bernard Pascal



The other Monitors (from left to right) Farida Malik, Ibrahim El Sebahi, Saad Lebbar, Mahdi Ben Abdalah, Jean-Claude Cador, Jean-Luc Neulat





11th African Bridge Championships



Senior	Team	1	2	3	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	Total	Pen
	Morocco	63.11	78.12	66.90	12.00	16.73	17.59	3.42	17.59	274.96	-0.50
	Egypt	70.31	72.33	48.77	18.44	13.04	12.00	11.48	2.41	248.28	-0.50
	South Africa	44.42	35.52	54.60	14.80	6.96	15.56	16.58	12.00	200.44	
	Kenya	47.90	40.37	36.39	5.20	12.00	2.41	8.52	7.97	160.76	
	Reunion	34.26	33.66	53.34	1.56	3.27	4.44	12.00	12.03	154.56	

Senior Butler

Senior Pair	Bds	Butler
El Ghrari & Hayet Jean Marc	176	0.85
Adel Elkordy & Amr	144	0.79
Mohammed Said Berrada & Rerhay	147	0.69
Azzam & Elbazm	160	0.50
Bensouda Khalil & Cambournac Guy	160	0.44
Larry Chemaly & James Grant	176	0.09
Patrice Dordhain & Breslaw	160	-0.04
Aruna Shah & Chandrakant Veljii Shah	192	-0.08
Tanbouli & Ashraf Wahdan	160	-0.09
Bhanumati & Ramula	192	-0.24
Maureen Narunsky & Michael Alexander	176	-0.28
Paul Reynolds & Brian Pincus	160	-0.49
Claude Drieux & Denise Bauquier	176	-0.67
Danièle Bonet Maury & Sort Bernard	128	-0.80
Samina Esmail & Saleem U Deen	128	-0.86
Sort Bernard & Bonet Maury	32	-1.95



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Senior Round Robin 4.3

Morocco were playing Kenya in the last match of the sixth day. A good result could see them with a very healthy lead over Egypt going into the last two sessions of the final day.

Board 33. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ Q642		
♥ A104		
♦ AQJ		
♣ 643		
♠ A		♠ KJ983
♥ Q87		♥ J963
♦ K3		♦ 1076
♣ QJ109852		♣ A
	♠ 1075	
	♥ K52	
	♦ 98542	
	♣ K7	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shah	Rerhaye	Chandrakant	Said
-	1♣	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass

A disciplined pass by West and then South found the only lead to give the contract away, namely the ♣K. Declarer cashed the ♠A and played clubs discarding two diamonds, South could ruff and switch to a diamond but then declarer ruffed the diamond continuation, cashed the ♠K and ruffed a spade making six tricks but could not be stopped from scoring two more tricks from the trump suit.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Khalil	Deen	Cambournac	Esmail
-	1♣*	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass
1♣	2+♣		

Whilst I have every sympathy with overcalling with the East hand the problem is that partner will frequently take you for a real hand. I also have further sympathy of not passing 3♣ as that would mean you have to table your hand for all to see, but the problem is that one is playing online and the world can see all anyway. The unsurprising

lead of a diamond saw the defence gather five diamonds, two hearts and a club taking the contract down four, fortunately not doubled but it was till seven IMPs to Kenya.

Board 45. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ K103		
♥ 102		
♦ 8754		
♣ J754		
♠ Q865		♠ AJ4
♥ Q96543		♥ J8
♦ 62		♦ QJ1093
♣ 3		♣ 1092
	♠ 972	
	♥ AK7	
	♦ AK	
	♣ AKQ86	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shah	Rerhaye	Chandrakant	Said
-	Pass	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
3♣*	3NT	All Pass	

After a heart lead declarer took his nine top tricks and tried for a tenth in the spade suit with no success.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Khalil	Deen	Cambournac	Esmail
-	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Double	3♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

I am not sure where in this auction North laid claim to a spade control or much of anything and in fact he had what he said he had. To be able to make 5♣ you need West not to find a diamond lead and then make a miracle reading of the cards. Declarer finished two off. Thirteen IMPs to Morocco.





After West made some forward moves East bid the slam and on a club lead, drew trumps played ace and another diamond and claimed twelve tricks and eleven IMPs for Morocco. At the end of the match Morocco had beaten Kenya 45-9 or 17.59-2.41 VPs. This saw them 19 points ahead of Egypt with two matches to go.

Open pairs: R 600 \approx US \$ 45 per pair
Open Teams : R 1200 \approx US \$ 90 per team

Open Pairs		Open Teams	
<u>Leading Qualifiers:</u>	R 2000 ≈ US \$ 140	<u>Qualifying Winners:</u>	1 st : R 5000 ≈ US \$ 360 2 nd : R 2600 ≈ US \$ 185 3 rd : R 1600 ≈ US \$ 115
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<u>Congress Section :</u>	1 st : R 2000 ≈ US\$ 140 2 nd : R 1000 ≈ US \$ 70	<u>Congress Section :</u>	1 st : R 3000 ≈ US\$ 215 2 nd : R 2000 ≈ US \$ 140
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Senior Round Robin 4.4

The penultimate round saw Morocco playing against South Africa. Morocco were nineteen points ahead of Egypt so a good win here would make it difficult for Egypt to overtake them.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ AQ9		
♥ A 10 3		
♦ K 10 3		
♣ Q 8 5 3		
♠ J 5		♠ K 8 7 6 4 3 2
♥ J 9 6		♥ K Q 8
♦ Q 9 7 6		♦ —
♣ K 9 6 4		♣ A J 10
	♠ 10	
	♥ 7 5 4 2	
	♦ A J 8 5 4 2	
	♣ 7 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chemaly	Hayet	Grant	Ghrari
—	1NT	2♦*	Double
2♥*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	
2♦	long M		

I suspect some misunderstanding here, 2♦ was self-alerted as long major, the Convention card says the defence is Landy. Why has North doubled, he knows his spade honours are not well placed and he is minimum for his bid and partner showed no inclination in playing for penalties. However, confusion aside, the contract is not without chances. The choice of a club was not the best start for the defence. This meant declarer could afford to lose two trump tricks and still make the contract. A small trump towards dummy gathered the ♠10, jack and queen. North's switch to ace of hearts hastened the end as declarer unblocked an honour from hand and ruffed the diamond switch. A small heart to the jack in dummy allowed a trump to be played and North was restricted to just one more trump trick. Contract made.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Cambournac	Narunsky	Khalil	Alexander
—	1NT	2♣*	2♦
Pass	Pass	2♠	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

It was not apparent to West that game might be a possibility. Declarer made the same ten tricks but lost nine IMPs to South Africa.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chemaly	Hayet	Grant	Ghrari
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	1♥	Double	2♥
2♠	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North cashed the ace and king of clubs before switching ace and another trump. Declarer now cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed one before coming back to hand with a diamond to ruff his last heart. The return to hand this time was via a club ruff. The last trump was drawn and with the diamonds good ten tricks were realised.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Cambournac	Narunsky	Khalil	Alexander
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	1♦	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
All Pass			






11th African Bridge Championships



I think East was worth one more bid, he has a singleton and a secondary fit. On the lead of a spade declarer won and played two rounds of hearts both ducked by West whereupon declarer claimed his contract conceding two diamonds, a heart and a spade but gaining thirteen IMPs for South Africa.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

<p>♠ 103 ♥ AKJ863 ♦ J1032 ♣ 4</p>		<p>♠ KJ96542 ♥ — ♦ KQ85 ♣ 92</p>	
<p>♠ Q87 ♥ 742 ♦ A ♣ AQ8763</p>			
<p>♠ A ♥ Q1095 ♦ 9764 ♣ KJ105</p>			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chemaly</i>	<i>Hayet</i>	<i>Grant</i>	<i>Ghrari</i>
—	3♥	4♠	5♥
6♠	All Pass		


There are some Easts who might have only tried 3♠ but then what will you do then over the expected 4♥ from South. Sometimes it is better to get the hand off your chest in one quick manoeuvre. West believed all you needed for the slam was AKxxxxx of spades, a singleton heart and a king and there would be a good play for it. Had South the gift of second sight a club would have been the lead of choice, but unsurprisingly a heart was lead. Declarer ruffed and knocked out the ace of trumps and eventually drew the outstanding trump and took a successful club finesse for the slam.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cambournac</i>	<i>Narunsky</i>	<i>Khalil</i>	<i>Alexander</i>
—	1♥	1♠	4♥
4♠	All Pass		

Completely different evaluations of their hands by North and East. West never had the chance to make a forward move and so lingered in game. The same twelve tricks were made and thirteen IMPs to South Africa.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

<p>♠ 82 ♥ 642 ♦ Q752 ♣ 6542</p>		<p>♠ AKQ3 ♥ A5 ♦ KJ ♣ AKQ83</p>	
<p>♠ 54 ♥ KQJ9 ♦ A984 ♣ J107</p>			
<p>♠ J10976 ♥ 10873 ♦ 1063 ♣ 9</p>			

Neither team had any problem in getting to the optimum contract of 7NT on this hand. Always a relief to bid those certain grand slams. At the end of the match Morocco had lost 42-13 to South Africa or 16.58-3.42 VPs. Fortunately for Morocco Egypt had won their match by less than twelve points and so Morocco had an eleven point lead which by my calculations means Egypt need to win their encounter with Morocco by 23 IMPs to take the championship.





Senior Round Robin 4.5

The final match to decide the Championship – Morocco against Egypt. Morocco has an eleven point lead which means Egypt needs to win by a score in excess of 23 IMPs. Egypt are bidding to win all four competitions, all that stands in their way is Morocco.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ AKQ1087	♠ J54
♥ 84	♥ J10932
♦ A10852	♦ 7
♣ —	♣ AK105
♠ —	♠ 9632
♥ AKQ5	♥ 76
♦ KJ64	♦ Q93
♣ Q9832	♣ J764

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wahdan	Rerhaye	Tanbouli	Said
—	1♠	Pass	Pass
Double	2♦	3♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

Once South had given North a flicker of support game was always going to be reached. It was not difficult for declarer to play the diamonds for one loser and so bring home the doubled game. Not only had the opposition been doubled in a cold game, 6♥ is only beaten on the unlikely lead of a club.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghrari	Azzam	Hayet	Elbazzm
—	1♠	Pass	3♠*
Double	4♠	5♥	Pass
Pass	5♠	Double	All Pass

Since 5♥ was a making contract North was right to bid 5♠. He did not play the diamonds to advantage and so was two light. Not an auspicious start for Egypt. Thirteen IMPs to Morocco.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 10765	♠ A82
♥ KQ82	♥ 103
♦ Q83	♦ A54
♣ Q7	♣ KJ653
♠ KQJ943	♠ —
♥ AJ97	♥ 654
♦ KJ	♦ 109762
♣ 10	♣ A9842

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wahdan	Rerhaye	Tanbouli	Said
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

With 2♣ being GF perhaps 3♠ was not necessary, maybe 2♠ or 4♠ would have sufficed but the poor slam was reached but North was kind enough to lead a diamond. In theory now the slam can be made but amongst other requirements you have to play North for the ♥KQ and not split honours. The upshot was that the slam failed by one trick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghrari	Azzam	Hayet	Elbazzm
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

A more pragmatic auction by East and West was not tested in the play, even with the 4-0 trump break. Twelve IMPs to Morocco, not the start for which Egypt had been hoping.





11th African Bridge Championships



Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ J98532		♠ 107
♥ Q10		♥ 6543
♦ J8		♦ 10952
♣ Q82		♣ A75
♠ AQ6	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	♠ K4
♥ KJ		♥ A9872
♦ KQ7		♦ A643
♣ KJ1093		♣ 64

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wahdan</i>	<i>Rerhaye</i>	<i>Tanbouli</i>	<i>Said</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

The ♥Q went to the ace and the suit returned to the king. Declarer cashed the king and ace of clubs, spurning the finesse. A successful finesse in spade suit and then ace another spade ruffed in dummy but now with declarer in dummy and no way back there he had to finesse against the ♦J but that failed and so the was two down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ghrari</i>	<i>Azzam</i>	<i>Hayet</i>	<i>Elbazm</i>
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Borrowing a point or perhaps adding one for the fifth club West opened a 20-21 2NT and after a Stayman enquiry East gave his partner game. With South not having had the chance to mention his hearts North led a spade to South's King and declarer's ace. Declarer took the club finesse in the wrong direction and North continued the spade attack and declarer ducked once before taking the queen. Three rounds of clubs followed South coming down to ♥Axx ♦Ax. Declarer now played the king of diamonds and South took his ace and tried returning another but declarer rose with the queen and had two further diamonds in dummy to make nine tricks. Declarer played nicely and took advantage of lie of the cards. Another thirteen IMPs to Morocco. That was 45 unanswered IMPs in the first four boards, the Moroccan lady may not have actually starting singing but she was certainly gargling.

At the end of the match Morocco won 59-23 or 17.59-2.41VPs making then the Senior Champions of Africa.

