Bulletin 1 Sunday 6th September Editor Ron Tacchi

Mixed And Seniors Start The Battle

This is the first day of competition and we have started with the Senior and Mixed Championships, Egypt are defending their title in the Senior eventwhile South Africa are defending their Mixed title.. After the first three sessions of the first Round Robin, Egypt were leading both lists.

In the Seniors, **South Africa** is less than a VP behind **Egypt** with **Reunion** and **Morocco** in third andourth place behind the leaders.

In the Mixed, again it is **Egypt** just ahead of South Africa by less than a VP with only four points separating the trailing group of Kenya, Reunion and Morocco.There are however Bye matches to unwind so the scores can easily change.

Standings

Mixed Team	VPs	Position
Egypt	**42.25**	**1**
South Africa	**41.18**	**2**
Kenya	**26.35**	**3**
Reunion	**23.76**	**4**
Morocco	**22.20**	**5**

Senior Team	VPs	Position
Egypt	**39.01**	**1**
South Africa	**38.30**	**2**
Reunion	**25.26**	**3**
Morocco	**17.43**	**4**

All information can be found on the website:

www.bridgewebs.com/abf/

Schedule for Sunday 6th September

Note all times are GMT

Senior Championship

R.R (02)		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
SUN	1	4 REU	x	1 EGY	1 EGY	x	3 RSA	2 MOR	x	1 EGY
06-Sep	2	3 RSA	x	2 MOR	2 MOR	x	4 REU	4 REU	x	3 RSA

Mixed Championship

R.R (01)		Match (04), 09H00			Match (05), 12H30			RR(02) Match (01), 15H30		
Date	Table No.	Home Team	X	Visiting Team	Home Team	X	Visiting Team	Home Team	X	Visiting Team
SUN	3	3 EGY	x	1 RSA	1 RSA	x	2 REU	6 --	x	1 RSA
06-Sep	4	4 MOR	x	2 REU	3 EGY	x	6 --	5 KEN	x	2 REU
	5	5 KEN	x	6 --	4 MOR	x	5 KEN	4 MOR	x	3 EGY

Results

Mixed Championship

Session 1	VPs
South Africa - Bye	12 - 0
Reunion - Kenya	11.76-8.24
Egypt - Morocco	14.80-5.20
Session 2	
Kenya - South Africa	5.82-14.18
Bye - Morocco	0 -12
Reunion - Egypt	0-20
Session 3	
South Africa - Morocco	15.00-5.00
Kenya - Egypt	12.29-7.71
Bye - Reunion	0 - 12

Senior Championship

Session 1	VPs
Egypt - Reunion	11.76-8.24
Morocco - South Africa	1.91-18.09
Session 2	
South Africa - Egypt	6.03-13.97
Reunion - Morocco	11.20-8.80
Session 3	
Egypt - Morocco	13.28-6.72
South Africa - Reunion	14.18-5.82

Egypt vs. Reunion - Seniors

Our first report features Egypt, defending champions, against Reunion who were semi-finalists at the last championships. All four pairs' systems are based on five-card majors.

The first deal was a nice easy opener for all the players – a straightforward Four Hearts. Every table bid it and every declarer made eleven tricks. Was this a foretaste of things to come? (spoiler alert, when a bridge journalist suggests things will be quiet, you can be sure they will not)

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

	♠ — ♥ A1043 ♦ KQJ10943 ♣ K2	
♠ K10976 ♥ Q62 ♦ A76 ♣ J4	N W E S	♠ AQJ8 ♥ J75 ♦ 8 ♣ AQ753
	♠ 5432 ♥ K98 ♦ 52 ♣ 10986	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lemarinel	*Azzam*	*Wan Hoi*	*Zein*
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♠	2♦	2♠	Pass
2NT	3♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

As many of our players speak French they might understand the 'jeux de mot' when I pose the question of North if he doubled in a fit of pique. North's hand is very pretty but overly geared towards attack rather than defence. Declarer had little problem in garnering ten tricks when, as expected, the club finesse was successful and declarer could also ruff two diamonds in dummy. 590 to Reunion.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fadel	*Vigna*	*Tanboli*	*Lagache*
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♠*	2♦	4♦	Pass
4NT	5♦	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

At this table both West and East perhaps slightly overvalued their hands and this lead to a no hope slam, there was not even an obvious way for the defence to make an egregious error and allow the contract to succeed. Thus 12 IMPs to Reunion

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

	♠ K743 ♥ — ♦ QJ752 ♣ Q1087	
♠ QJ ♥ AJ98753 ♦ 3 ♣ A64	N W E S	♠ — ♥ KQ1064 ♦ K109 ♣ KJ952
	♠ A1098652 ♥ 2 ♦ A864 ♣ 3	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lemarinel	*Azzam*	*Wan Hoi*	*Zein*
–	–	–	4♠
Pass	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣	5♠	Double	All Pass

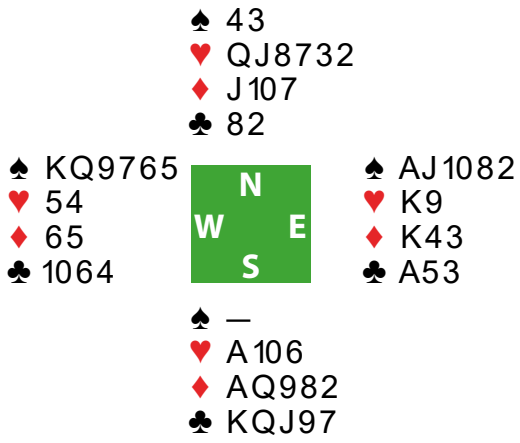
East's bid of 4NT showed two places to play and West showed that he tolerated clubs, if by good fortune East had a red two-suiter then he would be ready to make an effort in hearts if East removed to Five Diamonds. When you double the final contract and partner who has promised nothing in the bidding turns up with two aces and the contract makes an overtrick one might revisit the wisdom of making the double. After the lead of the singleton diamond declarer played dummy's queen covered by the king and he won with the ace. Trumps were drawn and a third round of diamonds played. East now had a choice as to which round suit to play and misguessed when a heart was chosen, now declarer could pitch his losing club on the long diamond for an overtrick and 750 for Egypt.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fadel	*Vigna*	*Tanboli*	*Lagache*
–	–	–	4♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
6♥	6♠	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

In my book a double of a Four Spades bid is for penalties, if you have just one suit then you can bid it, whilst if you are blessed with two then a bid of 4NT shows two places to play. This did not seem to be the methods employed at this table. If the double really was for takeout then I can make a good case for the slam bid and an even better one when I examine the four hands as the contract is cold. North did well to sacrifice in Six Spades but it was still 13 IMPs to Egypt.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lemarinel	*Azzam*	*Wan Hoi*	*Zein*
2♦*	Pass	2NT*	Double
3♦*	Pass	4♠	4NT*
Pass	5♦	Double	All Pass

2♦ multi
3♦ min ♠
4NT two places to play

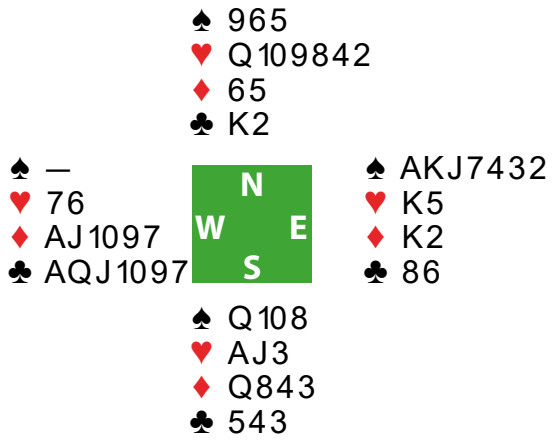
I suspect that North, having passed at his first opportunity, would not have guessed that he would be playing in a game contract at the five-level. Another case of a doubtful double. I would not bet any money on taking a spade trick and your red kings do not look handily placed. My supposition about the spade suit proved correct when dummy ruffed the opening lead of the ace of spades. The king of clubs followed and when East took the ace the continuation of the king of hearts facilitated declarer's task as there was now no need to enter hand to take a trump finesse as playing ace and another trump would prove successful. In fact it is possible to make a small slam. The play requires you to establish the clubs and then ruff the third round to gain an entry to dummy. Careful ordering of the finesses are essential to bring home the slam. If you start with a trump you must take only one round and then switch to the heart finesse and if that hold go back to the diamonds.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fadel	*Vigna*	*Tanboli*	*Lagache*
Pass	Pass	1NT	2NT*
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♦
Pass	Pass	4♠	Double
All Pass			

Here East snatched defeat from the jaws of victory as passing Four Diamonds would have gained 12 IMPs instead of losing two.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lemarinel	*Azzam*	*Wan Hoi*	*Zein*
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♣*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

2♣ two over one GF

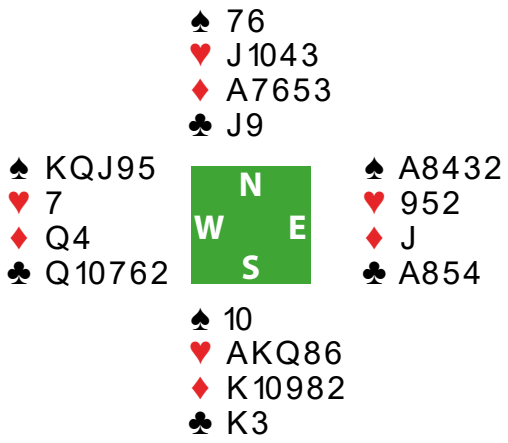
East's Three Spades bid was not good news for West. Had I bid Four Diamonds that would have shown 6-5 and when partner still persists with spades knowing that then I would have thrown in the towel and let her play in spades. It was yet another hopeless slam and finished down two.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fadel	*Vigna*	*Tanboli*	*Lagache*
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

East took a more restrained line after his partner's game forcing response. When faced with a continued barrage of spades he realised that he was not going to play the contract and gracefully let his partner play in game with some hope. In fact to beat the contract South has to find a club lead but when the card that hit the digital baize was a small diamond declarer had good chances. When dummy's jack was not covered declarer overtook with the king and played three rounds of trumps. When South was forced to win the third round of trumps there nothing that could be done to prevent declarer from making his contract. 13 IMPs to Egypt.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lemarinel	*Azzam*	*Wan Hoi*	*Zein*
1♠	Pass	4♦*	4♥
4♠	All Pass		

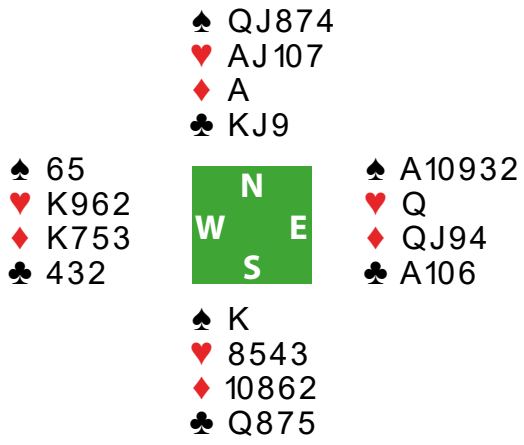
The light opener from West provided handsome dividends when it transpired he had a beautiful double fit with his partner. When North refrained from continuing a vulnerable barrage declarer was well on the way to a good result as the contract could not be beaten

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fadel	*Vigna*	*Tanboli*	*Lagache*
2♠*	Pass	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Double	All Pass

The Two Spades was a form of a Tartan opening showing 55 in spades and a minor with less than opening strength. East applied pressure with a raise to the four-level and South showed two places to play. North bid diamonds, no doubt expecting South to bid hearts, which indeed he did, and for what reason I cannot fathom, though the result was excellent. It seemed to provoke East into doubling. It is not the first time this session we have unproductive doubles. With the ace of clubs onside and diamonds not 3-0 declarer soon wrapped up eleven tricks and 15 IMPs for Reunion.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lemarinel	*Azzam*	*Wan Hoi*	*Zein*
–	–	1♠	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	All Pass	
1NT	F1R		

North was perhaps a little gourmand when raising to the three-level as his partner cannot be terribly strong in this auction. West led the six od spades and East took her ace and saw the king fall from declarer. To beat the contract a diamond must be played. It is not immediately apparent from East's perspective that this is the case. The opening lead is either a singleton or a doubleton – most probably a doubleton as declarer may well not have jettisoned the king under the ace (even if it was

the correct play). What East persisted with a small spade declarer was able to win in dummy with the ♠7 and then play ace and jack of trumps. Now declarer can finesse against West's ♥9 and only lose one trump and thus make the contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fadel	*Vigna*	*Tanboli*	*Lagache*
–	–	1♠	Pass
1NT	Double	2♦	All Pass

North chose to take no further action when South declined to respond after her double. Now the defence had to step up to the plate and defeat the contract. The defence did not get off to the best start when South led the ♥5 and North elected to play the ♥10 allowing declarer to win with his singleton queen. However declarer returned the favour by playing a small spade taken by the singleton king. Yet again the baton was passed to the other side when South continued hearts, this basically allows declarer to make enough tricks by ruffing hearts in hand. He ends up with eight tricks, even if the ace of spades is ruffed. 6 IMPs to Egypt.

The reason I include this hand is that you will find that when the deals are slightly less dramatic than this set and there are far fewer opportunities for big swings it is the little part-score contracts that make a huge difference to the score. It is always declarer who has the advantage on these deals as we all know that the defence of a part-score is more difficult than declaring it so that gives one licence to be a little, but not too, aggressive in the auction that is going to rest below game. Defending part-scores requires the utmost concentration, it is easy to sit back and think 'this is only a part-score, I'll save myself for those important higher scoring contracts'.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

	♠ KJ4 ♥ A10 ♦ Q853 ♣ A843	
♠ AQ1073 ♥ 54 ♦ J106 ♣ 976	N W E S	♠ 9862 ♥ KQ932 ♦ 74 ♣ KJ
	♠ 5 ♥ J876 ♦ AK82 ♣ Q1052	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lemarinel	*Azzam*	*Wan Hoi*	*Zein*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♥	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

When South made a forward move with Three Diamonds North went for the no-trump game. The ♠9 was led to the ace and a heart returned and ducked to East who continued the spade attack. Declarer won this switch and played ace and another club and saw the club king appear and that immediately led to ten tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fadel	*Vigna*	*Tanboli*	*Lagache*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	1NT*	2♠	3♦
All Pass			

I am not sure what South should do after the Two Spades bid and I must confess if I had been South I do not think we would have reached the game contract. The upshot was 10 IMPs to Egypt.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

	♠ 974 ♥ 832 ♦ Q95 ♣ J843	
♠ KQ85 ♥ A96 ♦ 108 ♣ A1075	N W E S	♠ A63 ♥ QJ754 ♦ AK73 ♣ 6
	♠ J102 ♥ K10 ♦ J642 ♣ KQ92	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lemarinel	*Azzam*	*Wan Hoi*	*Zein*
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

A tranquil auction to a tranquil contract and some tranquil play to garner eleven tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fadel	*Vigna*	*Tanboli*	*Lagache*
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥*	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass

I was never sure what the agreed trump suit was and when the response to the Blackwood enquiry showed three keycards I was sure that the suit was spades so I was lightly surprised at the final contract. I do not claim I know the best way to play this slam single dummy. I will show you how declarer tackled it after the lead of the king of clubs. The lead was won in dummy and the top two diamonds cashed. A diamond was ruffed in dummy and hand entered with a spade to lead another diamond which dummy ruffed with the ace. Declarer now led the ♥9 and ran it and so South took it with the ♥10 and still had the king to take the slam down. This was 13 IMPs to Reunion. Egypt finished up with a narrow win of 50-44 or 11.76-8.24 in VPs. Would you believe me if I told you that double dummy the grand slam in hearts or spades can be made. If you play in hearts you win the penultimate trick with the ♥9 en passant against South's ♥10. It makes a good problem should you wish to while away a minute or two.

Personnel Change

Jacqueline Lafon from the Reunion Seniors team has unfortunately been hospitalised. The federation has given permission for her to be replaced by Denise Bauquier. She will play exactly the same system as Jacqueline and her partner.

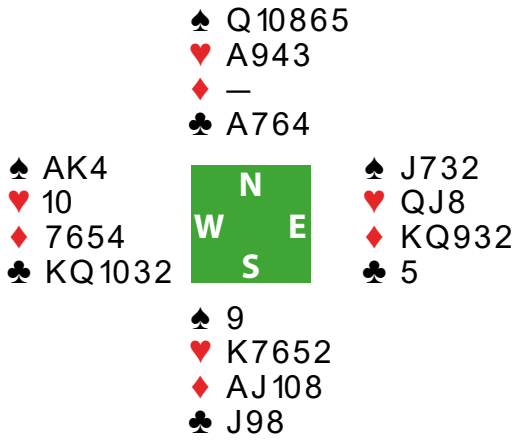
We wish Jacqueline a speedy recovery and hope she can be back before the end or the championships.

For all information use QR Code or the website:
www.bridgewebs.com/abf/

South Africa vs. Kenya - Mixed

South Africa took the mixed title on the previous occasion of this event and it would have been difficult to report on them for the first match of the day as they had drawn Bye as an opponent and I suspect most of my readers will understand as to why I have waited for the second round of the day to report on them.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sharma	*Alexander*	*Shah*	*Holman*
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	2♦	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

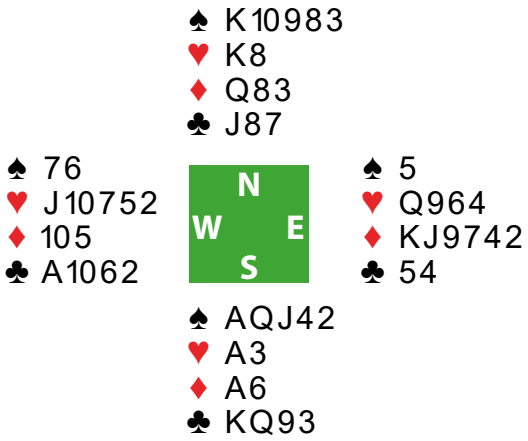
The defence started with the king of clubs which declarer ducked and when the queen of clubs was continued East ruffed declarer's ace. This rendered the contract unmakeable, declarer had no reason to believe West started with five clubs and ducking seemed a fairly normal approach. Had declarer risen with the ace at trick one she can make her contract by establishing the spades.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weers	*Bena*	*Kaprey*	*Haria*
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♠	1NT	Pass
2♣	All Pass		

This West opened a natural One Club and now it was more difficult for the opposition to find its heart fit and in fact were allowed to play somewhat peacefully in Two Clubs. But declarer was only going off in fifties and the defence found most of their tricks for three off but this was 6 IMPs to Kenya.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sharma	*Alexander*	*Shah*	*Holman*
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

No doubt North could have made this bid with a weaker hand and at first sight South was probably thinking that slam might be a proposition but would soon have realised that there is basically no play for twelve tricks and was very content with the eleven on offer.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weers	*Bena*	*Kaprey*	*Haria*
–	–	Pass	2♠*
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

2♠ strong natural
4♣ ace ask

It is rare these days to see a strong two-level opening, unfortunately here it did not work as the limit on the hand was eleven tricks. This meant 11 IMPs to South Africa.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ 10976 ♥ J65 ♦ 764 ♣ 1084	
♠ 5 ♥ Q874 ♦ AKQ109 ♣ J73	N W E S	♠ A4 ♥ K3 ♦ 8532 ♣ KQ652
	♠ KQJ832 ♥ A1092 ♦ J ♣ A9	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sharma	*Alexander*	*Shah*	*Holman*
1♦	Pass	2♣	2♠
Double	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

An effective auction to a good contract. On the spade lead declarer won and drew trumps before setting up the clubs and claiming.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weers	*Bena*	*Kaprey*	*Haria*
1♦	Pass	2♦	2♠
Double	Pass	2NT	3♥
Pass	3♠	3NT	All Pass

An unhappy contract. On the king of spades lead declarer won and cashed his five diamond tricks and surrendered the rest for three off

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

	♠ AQ83 ♥ KJ432 ♦ 43 ♣ A2	
♠ 10974 ♥ 5 ♦ AJ865 ♣ J43	N W E S	♠ K52 ♥ Q1098 ♦ Q109 ♣ 1065
	♠ J6 ♥ A76 ♦ K72 ♣ KQ987	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sharma	*Alexander*	*Shah*	*Holman*
–	–	Pass	1♣
1♦	1♥	2♦	Double*
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Dble 3 card support

North basically invited 3NT with his Three Spades bid which South gratefully accepted. What would you lead from the West hand when your partner had supported diamonds yet the opposition freely bid to 3NT. My answer is anything but a diamond and I would probably find a spade at the table. Obviously I do not have second sight but I can see all four hands and I know a diamond lead will give the contract whereas any other card takes the contract down. Obviously after this diatribe you will have guessed that West pulled out a diamond at trick one, now with the clubs behaving he has nine top tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weers	*Bena*	*Kaprey*	*Haria*
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

A hand that founders on the distribution. I could arrange the opposition's cards so that twelve tricks could be taken but with the actual layout after a diamond lead the contract was hopeless. A little unlucky to lose 12 IMPs to South Africa.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

	♠ QJ952 ♥ K862 ♦ 103 ♣ K6	
♠ 764 ♥ J1095 ♦ 76 ♣ Q987	N W E S	♠ A8 ♥ A4 ♦ AKJ42 ♣ AJ105
	♠ K103 ♥ Q73 ♦ Q985 ♣ 432	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sharma	*Alexander*	*Shah*	*Holman*
Pass	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Opposite a 20-21 2NT opener West declined to go higher. On a diamond lead declarer gave up a trick to the king of clubs and so had eight tricks and her contract

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weers	*Bena*	*Kaprey*	*Haria*
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West believed her partner to be made of sterner stuff and raised him to the vulnerable game. The same diamond lead saw declarer win with the jack and cash the ace. A club was given up to the king and a spade was returned and taken with the ace. Declarer now cashed three club tricks and inexplicably South discarded a diamond presenting declarer two extra tricks and so the contract was made with an overtrick. 11 IMPs to South Africa. The winners were South Africa by 45-29 IMPs or 14.18-5.82 VPs.

Local Time

All times quoted within the Bulletins are GMT:

Morocco and Tunisia are one hour ahead.

South Africa is two hours ahead.

Egypt and Kenya are three hours ahead and

Reunion is four hours ahead.

So at 2.00 p.m. it is 3.00 p.m. in Morocco and Tunisia, 4.00 p.m. in South Africa and Egypt, 5.00 p.m. in Kenya and 6.00 p.m. in Reunion.

Roster - Senior Teams

Egypt
Captain Ayman Azzam
Ayman Azzam
Walid El Ahmady
Tarek Sadek
Ahmed Zein
Mohamed Fadel
Mohamed Tanboli

Morocco
Captain Abdellatif Belkouch
Abdellatif Belkouch
Mohammed Said Berrada
Pierre Sibony
Jean Hayet
Cambournac Guy
Raphaël Guenoun

Reunion
Captain Philippe Lagache
Philippe Lagache
Régine WAN Hoi
Geneviève Vigna
Michel Lemarinel
Denise Bauquier
Anne-Marie De Paux

South Africa
Captain Brian Pincus
Brian Pincus
James Grant
Larry Chemaly
Diniar Minwalla
Paul Reynolds
Erica Zimet

Roster - Mixed Teams

Egypt
Captain **Cherif Noshy**
Farida Botrous
Dina El Awady
Rita Ghosn
Ahmed Nayer
Omar El Geddawi
Hany Dagher

Kenya
Captain **Bijal Shah**
Bijal Shah
Rakesh Sharma
Bhanumati Shah
J K Haria
Sejal M Shah
Hemendra Modi

Morocco
Captain **Khalil Bensouda**
Khalil Bensouda
Lamia BenYahia
Stéphane Dahan
Cathy T'KINT De Roodenveke
Pierre T'KINT De Roodenveke
Fatim Lahlou

Reunion
Captain **Patrick Hamel**
Patrick Hamel
Catherine Aouate
Marie-Thérèse Boyer
Patrick Schilli
Narguis Huseinali
Christian Giraud

South Africa
Captain **Glen Holman**
Glen Holman
Michelle Alexander
Carol Stanton
Lorraine Weers
Imitiaz Kaprey
Kevin Smith