

# Arab Bridge League

ABL Online Mixed Teams

17-31 January 2021



Bulletin 10

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Editor Ron Tacchi

## One Day Left

In the Play-off between **Diamond** and Sharjah Club, Diamond won the first low-scoring session by a margin of six points. In the second session Sharjah Club came back to win by 45-34 thus turning round the match and becoming the third placed team by a mere five points.

The hands in the two final sessions were full of thrills and spills, in the second session there were five slams and only three boards were flat during the entire day. **EGYJOR** just shaded **WASO** in both sessions, the first by three points and the second by nine, so giving then a twelve point lead going into tomorrow's final two sessions to determine who is the champion. A mammoth 146 IMPS changed hands during the 24 boards- that is more than six points a board. So still all to play for.



## Arab Bridge League ABL online Mixed Teams FINAL

N	Team	C.O	S 1	S 2	S 3	S 4	Total	PEN.
			IMP	IMP	IMP	IMP	IMP	
1	WASO	0.5	<u>34</u>	<u>33</u>			67.5	
	EGYJOR	0.0	<u>37</u>	<u>42</u>			79.0	
2	DIAMOND	0.5	<u>24</u>	<u>34</u>			58.5	
	SHARJAH CLUB	0.0	<u>18</u>	<u>45</u>			63.0	

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All information can be found on the website:

[www.bridgewebs.com/ablonline/](http://www.bridgewebs.com/ablonline/)





## Information for Captains

### Alert

All alertable bids must be pre-alerted (press the alert button before making the bid). Giving an explanation is not compulsory unless it is an extra-ordinary bid.

For example if you are playing forcing NT over major openings (which is very common) alerting should be sufficient (if needed opponents can ask for explanation) , but if you are playing 1NT transfer to X, only alerting is not enough. You have to type the explanation before making the bid. We strongly recommend you try to help opponents giving sometimes the simplest of information.

For example, if you are opening 1♣ with 2+. At least the first time you do it, just type “2+” in the explanation box when you make the bid. Only alert your own bids, do not even attempt to explain your partner’s bids. Alert explanation space is limited on BBO, if opponents ask for further clarification using private chat respond privately, not on table chat. (Of course, unless opponents asked on table chat), If you are playing an unusual system make sure you pre-alert it before you start bidding the first board, including but not limited to: Variable or weak NT openings, strong ♣ or ♦ systems, 4-card major systems like ACOL, playing unusual honor card leads like Rusinow or low from a doubleton ....

### Systems

HUM, Browne stickers systems, Forcing Pass Systems, Random Openings, and Encrypted Signals are not allowed all the time.

Players can’t consult their system cards or notes between the start of the auction period until the end of the play. Exception: players may consult their defence notes vs 2♦ multi opening.

Psychic conventional opening bids are forbidden

### Codes

If you want more information about an opponent’s bid, whether or not it was explained, you should send a private message to the opponent who made the bid asking for clarification.

Requesting information may be made at any time, at the time the bid is made, when the auction concludes, or any time during the play as long as it is a private chat between one opponent and the bidder.

If players explain bids via chat they should set the recipients to Opponents, not Table, so that only opponents see the explanation, not the partner. But the best way is to explain the bids via the BBO alert mechanism.

### Line up

All line-ups are blind and a personal line-up form ( [link](#) ) for each team including all the matches will be sent to the team captain to keep the link as it will be used each time , the team captain will choose 1) the match number, 2) pick the players from the given name list and players preferred direction ( North, South, East or West ) and submit it at least 60 min before the match starts.





## Two Important Pieces of Information For Captains to Note

Q.F Stage will start next Tuesday as scheduled and we will start the live broadcasting process.

As I told you before, nowadays we have many options...

1. Facebook broadcasting group ( Online Bridge Live Broadcasting )

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bridgelivebroadcasting>

Please ask to join the group and one of the admins will let you in.

2. Zoom live meeting

3. Line Messenger live meeting

4. Signal Messenger live meeting

5. IMO messenger video calling

For those options from 2 - 5 please ask your team-mates to contact one of the Event TDs for instructions and also to register the phone number(s) which the TD has to contact.

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More information and videos about the required broadcasting angle will posted shortly.

Thank you

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ablonline>

### \*VERY IMPORTANT NOTES \*

The BBO Management recommends that you wait in the main section of BBO when you are about to receive an invitation to play. Different areas of BBO are managed by different servers, so if you are located in the casual section the system may read you as being offline even if you are online.

Also, we use a special procedure in order to make sure that all of our matches are starting at the same time. We start inviting players and set up the team match some minutes before the official starting time. This may result in your partner already sitting (and waiting) at the table of the ABL Mixed Teams match while you are still in the lobby. That is totally normal, and is done in order to be more precise on the starting time. We kindly ask all players to just stay in the lobby (main section of BBO or in the competitive section ) and wait for our invitation.





# ABL Online Mixed Teams



EGYJOR

## Final 1

WASO

The first of four twelve board sessions between EGYJOR and WASO to decide the winner of the Mixed Teams Championships.

### Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ —	♥ AQJ1085	♦ 542	♣ AKJ9
♠ KJ974	♥ K97	♦ AK	♣ Q85
♠ AQ65	♥ 4	♦ Q86	♣ 107432
♠ 10832	♥ 632	♦ J10973	♣ 6

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Azzam	Hitti	Dajani
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	2♥*	Double	Pass
2♠	3♥	4♠	All Pass
2♥	♥ & minor		

If the defence does not take its club tricks early then there is a small chance the the contract could succeed but North's first lead was the ♣K, declarer tried to muddy the waters by dropping the ♣Q but having opened 1NT there was not a lot of mud to stir up. North then cashed the ace of hearts and two more clubs to take the first four tricks – one off.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	El Ahmdy	Heshmat	El Araby
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	4♥	Double	All Pass

Declarer needs the ♥K to be doubleton onside as dummy cannot be reached dummy twice. Even the friendly looking lead of a club does not help as even if you ruff two clubs in dummy that only leaves one for taking finesses – one down and six IMPs to EGYJOR.

### Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ J642	♥ K2	♦ 984	♣ K863
♠ Q7	♥ AJ763	♦ AK62	♣ A7
♠ A95	♥ Q4	♦ J3	♣ QJ10952
♠ K1083	♥ 10985	♦ Q1075	♣ 4

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Azzam	Hitti	Dajani
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT*	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

I assume West's 3NT showed 18-19, otherwise an alternative opening would have been found for a balanced hand. East should know the maximum point count is 29 so there needs to be a perfect fitting hand opposite to make a slam and in my experience partner rarely has the perfect maximum. It was bad news/good news/bad news story to the play. The bad news was that the slam was failing, the good news was that 5♣ would also fail, so there was scope for minimising the loss, the inconsequential bad news was that South, very generously in my opinion, underled the ♠K giving away a trick – would have looked very silly if declarer's hand had been slightly different.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	El Ahmdy	Heshmat	El Araby
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

My system card has 2NT down as 15-17, but it did not matter as partner had an automatic 3NT bid and declarer was not hard pressed when the ♠Q held the first trick after a spade lead. Another twelve IMPs to EGYJOR.







# ABL Online Mixed Teams



## Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ Q		
♥ A54		
♦ AK764		
♣ AK83		
♠ K7		♠ A109852
♥ J9863		♥ 72
♦ 532		♦ QJ98
♣ QJ6		♣ 7
	♠ J643	
	♥ KQ10	
	♦ 10	
	♣ 109542	

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Azzam	Hitti	Dajani
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

3NT would also succeed but the minor-suit game was not in danger, in fact had the clubs split 2-2 then twelve tricks would have been there for the taking

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	El Ahmdy	Heshmat	El Araby
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♦	2♠	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

There is an old saw which says 'takeout doubles should be taken out', especially if you are going to drop a trick in the defence, the contract finished one down and yet again IMPs for EGYJOR – nine to be precise.

## Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ Q1052		
♥ Q532		
♦ 832		
♣ 74		
♠ J4		♠ 863
♥ K10987		♥ J6
♦ A		♦ KQ10654
♣ QJ1098		♣ 32
	♠ AK97	
	♥ A4	
	♦ J97	
	♣ AK65	

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Azzam	Hitti	Dajani
1♥	Pass	1NT	Double
2♣	Pass	2♥	Double
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

South was not going to let the opposition play at a low-level and North found himself at the helm of a spade contract. Double dummy as the cards lie ten tricks are possible but declarer was content with nine.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	El Ahmdy	Heshmat	El Araby
1♥	Pass	1♠	Double
2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass

After East's cheeky One Spade South was less determined and sold out to Two Hearts. To compound the problem after North had led a diamond to trick one, South returned the suit when the second trick was won by the ♣K and away went two spade losers and declarer could make eight tricks. Seven IMPs to EGYJOR who now led 37-2. WASO needed to change gear.





# ABL Online Mixed Teams



## Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ QJ6	♠ 54	♠ AK9873
♥ AQ853	♥ K64	♥ J72
♦ Q4	♦ K9753	♦ 10
♣ J63	♣ 1074	♣ K82



♠ 102
♥ 109
♦ AJ862
♣ AQ95

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Azzam	Hitti	Dajani
–	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

I suspect there was nearly confusion in the auction but all's well that ends well. South has an unattractive hand from which to lead and chose the ♣A and now to beat the contract must underlead the ♦A so partner can win with the king and push a club through, otherwise it is too late as after trumps are drawn declarer can set up the hearts to discard the losing club.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	El Ahmdy	Heshmat	El Araby
–	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

South found a better lead, a heart. Declarer went up with the ace and drew trumps and then knocked out the ♥K but North immediately switched to a club and the defence took the next three tricks to break the contract. Twelve much needed IMPs to WASO.

## Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ Q9	♠ A532	♠ K1084
♥ 875	♥ 32	♥ AK10
♦ 865	♦ AJ42	♦ 10
♣ A10862	♣ J94	♣ KQ753



♠ J76
♥ QJ964
♦ KQ973
♣ –

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Azzam	Hitti	Dajani
–	–	1♣	3♣*
Double	5♦	Double	All Pass
3♣	♦ & ♥		

Five Clubs can be made but would they have got there? Five Diamonds had three obvious losers and so finished one off.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	El Ahmdy	Heshmat	El Araby
–	–	1♣	3♣*
Pass	4♦	All Pass	
3♣	♦ & ♥		

A more gentle pre-empt paid dividends this time. With the gift of second sight East could have led a small spade to reduce declarer's haul to nine tricks but the king of clubs was chosen and after declarer had established the hearts he had ten tricks and eight more IMPs for WASO.





# ABL Online Mixed Teams



## Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 5	♥ AQ109875	♦ K94	♣ Q10
♠ Q843	♥ 32	♦ 1083	♣ 8762
♠ A962	♥ J4	♦ Q5	♣ AJ943
♠ KJ107	♥ K6	♦ AJ762	♣ K5



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Azzam	Hitti	Dajani
–	–	–	1♦
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

When partner could speak West immediately went to game in hearts. After a diamond lead declarer managed to ruff one in dummy and then take a successful heart finesse and then had the pleasure of the seeing the king fall doubleton and in spite of the ♣K being offside there were eleven tricks.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	El Ahmdy	Heshmat	El Araby
–	–	–	1NT
2♣*	Pass	2♦	Double
2♥	All Pass		
2♣	singlesuited		

The question whether East is worth an effort after discovering partner has a hand worthy of an overcall after an opening 1NT, a lot depends on partnership style, if the overcall can be slightly less than sound then it is more difficult to bid on, but if you partner plays with a straight bat then perhaps one could make some invitation. Another six IMPs to WASO.

## Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 4	♥ Q6	♦ AQ2	♣ 9876532
♠ K1053	♥ 10743	♦ K6	♣ AJ10
♠ AJ9872	♥ 52	♦ J9853	♣ –
♠ Q6	♥ AKJ98	♦ 1074	♣ KQ4



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Azzam	Hitti	Dajani
Pass	Pass	2♠*	Double
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

I suspect North felt marginally aggrieved when the defence took the first four tricks with two aces and two ruffs, it could have been three ruffs but I do not think the defence minded much.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	El Ahmdy	Heshmat	El Araby
Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass

A spectacularly wild opening which would have been a great success if Four Hearts was makeable by North/South, but as we have just seen the defence have a riot of ruffs. It was not doubled so no deep trouble but another six IMPs to WASO.

It was, as football pundits are wont to say 'a game of two halves'. To start EGYJOR racked up 37 while WASO could only score two and then at the backend of the session WASO scored 32 unanswered points, so only three points in it.





# WASO

# Final 2

EGYJOR

After a first session where 71 IMPs changed hands EGYJOR had a three point slender lead over WASO. All to play for.

## Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ Q652  
♥ 94  
♦ J1074  
♣ Q107

♠ KJ9843  
♥ Q1083  
♦ 9  
♣ 42

♠ A7  
♥ KJ752  
♦ AKQ3  
♣ A9

♠ 10  
♥ A6  
♦ 8652  
♣ KJ8653

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hachem</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Hitti</i>	<i>Ghazala</i>
–	–	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass
3♣	Puppet		
3♠	cue agreeing hearts		

When West cooperated with East's forward moves it was clear that there must be some useful cards in the West hand and so East bid the very good slam. Even though South led the singleton spade there was no problem as that hand also held the trump ace and so twelve tricks were gathered in short order.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Danjani</i>	<i>Akl</i>	<i>Azzam</i>	<i>Tanboli</i>
–	–	1♥	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

I am not a fan of East's opening bid, had partner not had the ♠K a Pass might have been the response and a stone cold game missed. I appreciate that

West's hand is not the strongest but it is much stronger than its six points, it has a ninth trump and a singleton, certainly taking the hand into double figures. You are not promising much extra if you cooperate with partner. So that resulted in eleven IMPs to WASO

## Board 3. Dealer South. E/W VuL.

♠ 982  
 ♥ J1074  
 ♦ 10754  
 ♣ 96

♠ 7543  
 ♥ 983  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ AQJ87

N  
 W E  
 S

♠ AKJ10  
 ♥ KQ  
 ♦ AKQJ9  
 ♣ 102

♠ Q6  
 ♥ A652  
 ♦ 863  
 ♣ K543

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hachem</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Hitti</i>	<i>Ghazala</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥*	Pass	4♠	All Pass
2♥	2 controls		
3♣	puppet		
3♥	4♠		

East effectively stopped the auction with the 4♠ bid, I do not know if and how the partnership methods differentiate between 3♠ and 4♠ but with the East hand when you know partner has four spades and the ace of clubs you can virtually underwrite the five-level so one needs to find a way to explore further. After a club lead that ran round to the ten declarer cashed the ♠AK and when the ♠Q fell doubleton took all the tricks.







# ABL Online Mixed Teams



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Danjani	Akl	Azzam	Tanboli
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass
3♣	puppet		

East only bid 3♠ giving partner a chance to show better than minimum and that gave East all the impetus that was required. A diamond lead was won in hand and again the ♠AK were cashed and the same thirteen tricks claimed after the queen fell. Thirteen IMPs to EGYJOR.

## Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ A75	♠ Q10964	♠ J82
♥ KQ1084	♥ A752	♥ 9
♦ 975	♦ A8	♦ Q10642
♣ 104	♣ J2	♣ Q987
	♠ K3	
	♥ J63	
	♦ KJ3	
	♣ AK653	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Heshmat	Hitti	Ghazala
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♥Q and saw the ♥9 from partner, after thought the continuation was the ♥K which gave declarer two heart tricks. In dummy with the ♥A a small spade to the king lost to West's ace and the heart suit was then cleared. A small spade to dummy's ♠9 lost to the jack but now the spades were established and declarer had the requisite number of tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Danjani	Akl	Azzam	Tanboli
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led the ♥K and when that held the trick the ♥Q followed taken by the ace. A small spade from dummy to the king was allowed to hold and declarer now tried to establish the club suit with a small one towards the jack but East took it with the ♣Q and exited with a diamond. Now declarer tried to establish the spades and when he played a small one towards dummy he inserted the ♠9 which lost to the jack. East got off lead with a club and declarer now hoped that the club suit would break and give him nine tricks but it was not to be and now declarer only had eight tricks and finished one off. Eleven IMPs to EGYJOR

## Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ A3	♠ A3	♠ –
♥ J764	♥ J764	♥ KQ952
♦ J543	♦ J543	♦ 72
♣ 1098	♣ 1098	♣ AKQ762
♠ K10984	♠ K10984	♠ QJ7652
♥ A83	♥ A83	♥ 10
♦ AK98	♦ AK98	♦ Q106
♣ 4	♣ 4	♣ J53

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Heshmat	Hitti	Ghazala
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

I very much liked the auction, it is never easy to play in the fourth suit. When South led a club declarer took care of the contract by immediately ruffing a club in dummy and then taking three rounds of trumps. Ruffing the club cost an over-trick but the contract was guaranteed against a 4-2 club split and a 4-1 trump split – good safety.





# ABL Online Mixed Teams



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Danjani</i>	<i>Akl</i>	<i>Azzam</i>	<i>Tanboli</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

West in this room did not value the hand as highly as above and thus rested in game and made the same twelve tricks. Eleven IMPs to WASO.

## Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 954		
♥ A72		
♦ 75		
♣ Q10853		
♠ J		♠ A106
♥ Q10853		♥ KJ4
♦ AJ843		♦ K1096
♣ A6		♣ KJ7
		♠ KQ8732
		♥ 96
		♦ Q2
		♣ 942

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hachem</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Hitti</i>	<i>Ghazala</i>
–	–	–	2♦
2♥	3♠	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♥	All Pass

West did well to realise the potential of the hand after partner's raise to game. North led a spade taken in dummy with the ace. The ♥K was led from dummy and North took the ace and continued with another spade ruffed in hand. Trumps were drawn in two rounds and then declarer went about determining the distribution. He played three rounds of clubs ruffing the third. He now had a count on eleven of South's cards, the question was now what was South's most likely holdings in the minor suits. He had another slight clue in that neither player had echoed in the club suit. Was South 3-2 or 4-1. There probably is not much in it mathematically but 3-2 looks more likely and so declarer played for that and so brought home the slam

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Danjani</i>	<i>Akl</i>	<i>Azzam</i>	<i>Tanboli</i>
–	–	–	2♦*
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The 3NT bid had the look of someone who had played a lot of bridge and was getting tired but it cost eleven IMPs to WASO.

We had had a session with five slams of which WASO had the upper hand but at the end it was EGYJOR who had one, again narrowly, 42-33. Over the two sessions we had had some interesting boards with plenty of scope for excitement, in fact only three of all the deals were flat.

