

**10<sup>th</sup> Arab Nations Championship**

**13-17 Nov. 2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> Jeddah International Bridge Festival**

**15-20 Nov. 2024**

**Bulletin 02**

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**ALL TO PLAY FOR**

With two days completed and just three rounds of qualifying to go there is still all to play for in both the Open and Women’s events.

The Egypt Open team continues to dominate, though they suffered a heavy defeat in their last match on Thursday, going down by 2-19 IMPs against Jordan, a big win for Jordan as it brought them back into the top four and, if they can maintain it, a place in the knockout stages of the tournament. The other qualifiers are currently Morocco and Saudi Arabia

Tunisia has opened up a full match gap over the rest of the Women’s field and is looking good for a semi-final berth, with Egypt and UAE also having a bit of a cushion over the fifth-placed team. However, a bad day on Friday and either of those teams could slip out of the top four, and every team still has chances if it can string together three good matches.

Egyptian Open players still dominate the Butler rankings, taking four of the top five places, headed by Ahmed Nayer, the odd one out still being third-placed Jalila Ghodbahn of the Tunisian Women.

**RANKING (PROVISIONAL)**

**OPEN TEAMS**

1.	Egypt	171.42
2.	Morocco	125.00
3.	Saudi Arabia	114.80
4.	Jordan	110.96
5.	United Arab Emirates	106.39
6.	Kuwait	90.93

**WOMEN TEAMS**

1.	Tunisia	151.57
2.	Egypt	131.39
3.	United Arab Emirates	130.85
4.	Morocco	119.77
5.	Palestine	117.69
6.	Saudi Arabia	106.89
7.	Jordan	105.84

# YESTERDAY'S QUIZ - SOLUTION

Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♥
2♥	Dble	Pass	4♦
5♣	5♦	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Two Hearts is Michaels, at least five-five in spades and a minor. West thought a little before passing over 6♦. He leads the ace then king of clubs, East following with the queen then seven.

West does not have a huge number of high cards so his Five Club bid strongly suggests that he is more than merely five-five. He then thought before passing over 6♦. It is hard to imagine that he was contemplating a double, so there are strong indications that he has twelve black cards.

Your first play should be a diamond to the ace – you can't afford to start with the king as you will require at least one heart ruff and may also need to finesse in diamonds if East has all four, while to start with a top heart could see you down in a cold contract when West has one diamond but no heart. West shows out, pitching a club.

If you believe that West probably has twelve black cards, the odds play in hearts is to finesse the jack, as you cannot both ruff hearts twice and finesse in diamonds. Assuming that wins you can then take a heart ruff and lead dummy's last diamond to the ten to pick up trumps.

The actual position, where West's heart singleton is the queen, may be unlucky, but it was a risk you did not need to take. After the ace of diamonds, discard two hearts on the top spades then play ace, king and ruff a heart. Ruff a club, ruff another heart and you are in dummy with only the ♦KQ10 sitting over the jack. Whatever you now lead results in a trump coup against East.

This line still works if West has all thirteen black cards. The only time that it fails is when West has seven clubs and five spades. Now East pitches his last heart when you ruff a club at trick nine and you cannot ruff a heart back to dummy to pick up the trumps. In this scenario, you could have succeeded by ruffing a spade, the suit to which East must follow, rather than the club.

## TODAY'S QUIZ

Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	4♥	4♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Partner's overenthusiastic raise to slam has put us in a pretty poor contract. However, after the lead of the king of hearts, we have to find a layout which permits us to make our slam.

The answer  
will be published  
tomorrow...

# OPEN ROUND 7 – EGYPT V JORDAN

Overnight leaders Egypt met Jordan in their first match of day two.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ A J 8 ♥ J 10 3 ♦ J 9 8 4 2 ♣ J 7		♠ 9 7 5 3 2 ♥ A Q 4 ♦ 10 5 3 ♣ 8 3	♠ K 4 ♥ K 9 6 5 2 ♦ 6 ♣ A 6 5 4 2
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West	North	East	South
Ghanem	Nayer	Clement	Hady
–	Pass	Pass	2♥
Dble	Pass	2♠	All Pass

For Egypt, Hady opened a two-suited weak 2♥ and Ghanem made the obvious take-out double then passed Clement's 2♠ response. Hady led the six of diamonds, Clement winning the ace and, after some thought, playing a low spade off the dummy to the nine and king. Hady played ace and another club, so Clement won the king and played the ten of spades, nayer winning the jack and returning a heart. The queen lost to the king,



Ahmed Nayer



Clement M Bashi

but from here there was just the ace of spades to be lost, so the contract was just made for +110.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ghanem	Nayer	Clement	Hady
–	–	1♣	1♥
2♦	2♥	3♦	3♥
3♠	Dble	Pass	4♥
Dble	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

When Ghanem doubled 4♥, Nayer must have suspected that his own high cards were all in the wrong places, and indeed, 4♥ is down off the top, the only

question being how many spade ruffs the defence will manage to take. One is the most likely answer to that question, resulting in down two. But Nayer must have perked up considerably when Clement took out the double to 5♦ – we can see why, as the East hand looks to be much more powerful on offence than on defence, but today this was a seriously bad decision. Two hearts and two diamonds meant down two for –500.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ghanem	Nayer	Clement	Hady
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

A simple auction saw Hady declare 3NT, against which the lead was the nine of clubs to the ace, and a low club continuation. Hady won the king and led a heart to the ten, continuing with the ace when that won the trick. From here, he simply cashed out, coming to four hearts, four spades, and two clubs, so 10 in all for +630.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ghanem	Nayer	Clement	Hady
2♥	4♣	4♥	5♣
All Pass			

Ghanem's 2♥ showed a weak two-suiter, hearts and another, and 4♣ was Leaping Michaels, a sound opening hand with at least five-five in the black suits. Clement competed to 4♥, no doubt expecting his opponents to be about to get together in spades. But it was clubs that Hady supported and his free 5♣ bid gave Nayer a problem, as his own hand was substantially better than it might have been. Was slam making? Nayer, of course, appreciated that in this kind of auction partner has to bid 5♣ both to make and also to save against a making heart game so, no doubt reluctantly, he passed, which was the right thing to do. Clement cashed the ace of hearts then switched to ace and another diamond. Ghanem ruffed with the queen – who knew, perhaps partner had jack-doubleton trump? Nayer over-ruffed, drew trumps, and had the rest; 11 tricks for +400.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ghanem	Nayer	Clement	Hady
–	1♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			



Sometimes, giving the defence no information about your hand so a blind lead can be a very effective tactic. Not this time, however, as Ghanem had five diamonds to cash, plus the ace of spades and a heart for partner, and there were simply not enough tricks for declarer even on a different lead. The contract was down three for -150.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ghanem	Nayer	Clement	Hady
-	-	Pass	1♣
1♠	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Hady's 1♣ only promised two, but Nayer had plenty of clubs with which to show a constructive raise and, when Hady showed a balanced hand with a spade stopper, he raised to the NT game. Ghanem led the jack of diamonds to dummy's bare ace. One option for Hady was to play for clubs to be two-two with the king onside, but that was not good odds so he settled for playing ace and another club, which would at least minimise the undertricks, and would make the contract if either defender held the bare king. There was also the possibility of a spade blockage which could allow the contract to succeed. Not this time. Ghanem won the second club, cashed the top spades, and led a diamond to Clement's king for down one and -100.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ghanem	Nayer	Clement	Hady
-	-	-	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

When Hady opened 2NT, Nayer used Stayman the, on finding now fit, just jumped to 6NT. The hands fitted nicely so there were 13 tricks without any need to do more than count then cash them; +1020.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ghanem	Nayer	Clement	Hady
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Nayer led the eight of diamonds against 2♥, Hady winning the jack and continuing with the ace. Ghanem ruffed, led a club to the king, and took a second diamond ruff. Next, he exited with ace and a third club to Hady, who played the fourth diamond, both Ghanem and Nayer pitching spades. Hady switched to a low spade, which Ghanem ducked to the king, and back came a spade to the ten. He played the ♠A now but that was ruffed, and the ten of heart return to the king saw him with a trump to lose at the end for down one and -100.

Egypt won the match by 31-7 IMPs, converting to 17.31-2.69 VPs, and extended their lead at the top of the rankings.



# OPEN ROUND 8 – EGYPT V KUWAIT

The next match for the leaders saw the Egyptians face off against Kuwait. The match began with a thin game for the Egyptian E/W pair.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Fatma	Al Sabah	Heshmat	Al Refaie
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble	3♠	4♥	All Pass

When you are invited to show your preferred suit at the two level and enemy pre-emption means that you have to do so at the four level, it is not, of course, obligatory to still do so. Many players, however, would have refused to be shut out and bid 4♥, as did

Heshmat, fearing that 4♥ could be on while partner might not have enough for a second double. The cards did not lie well for declarer.

For Kuwait, Refaie led the nine of diamonds, Heshmat calling for dummy's ace and leading a spade to the ten and queen. Back came the seven of diamonds, which he ruffed. After taking a spade ruff, Heshmat needed to find a way back to hand and tried ruffing a diamond with his ten. Refaie over-ruffed with the king and led a club to the jack and king. A spade ruff was followed by a diamond ruff with the jack, but that too was over-ruffed, and a club returned. Heshmat resignedly played low from dummy, more in hope than expectation, and that lost to the queen. A club ruff saw the contract down two for –200.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Fatma	Al Sabah	Heshmat	Al Refaie
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Sabah's 1♦ response showed hearts, Refaie's 1♥ denied four hearts, and 2NT was game-forcing. The raise to 3NT should, apparently, have shown 4-3-3-3 with four spades, but that didn't matter on this occasion. Heshmat led the six of diamonds to the four, queen and king, and Sabah immediately played ace then jack of clubs, which Fatma ducked. A spade to the queen allowed declarer to clear the clubs and a diamond back to the ace was the only other trick for the defence; 11 tricks for +460.



Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fatma</i>	<i>Al Sabah</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Al Refaie</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Heshmat's 2NT was 19-21. Fatma used Stayman then signed off in 3NT, against which Refaie led the three of diamonds to the two, nine and jack. Heshmat played on hearts, Refaie winning the second round and playing the king of diamonds. Haeshamat ducked but won the diamond continuation and cashed out the hearts and clubs, and it trick 12 led the king of spades and found that Sabah had to return a spade to his queen for the overtrick; +430.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fatma</i>	<i>Al Sabah</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Al Refaie</i>
1♦	1♥	Pass	1♠
Dble	2♠	All Pass	

Sabah overcalled 1♥ then raised his partner's spade response and 2♠ ended the auction. Not fancying anything else very much, Fatma led the king of spades, which Refaie won with the ace to lead the

three of hearts towards dummy. When Fatma played low, he called for the king and, when that held played a second heart. Fatma won the queen, cashed the queen of spades, and exited with the nine of diamonds which was covered all around. Having won the ♦Q, Refaie drew the outstanding trump, crossed to the ace of diamonds, and ruffed a heart, bringing down the ace. A club towards dummy saw Fatma win her ace and Refaie had the rest for +170.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fatma</i>	<i>Al Sabah</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Al Refaie</i>
–	1♣	2♠	Dble
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Heshmat's weak jump overcall pushed his opponents up beyond their comfort zone. Of course, you might say that opening that filthy 11-count as dealer is what pushed them to the three level, but the modern game sees players opening more and more aggressively and, so long as partner is on the same wavelength, there are definite long-term benefits to being the side that starts the bidding off.

Heshmat led the two of spades round to Sabah's jack. Sabah played a heart, Heshmat winning the king and playing a second spade. Sabah won the ace and played a second heart, and Heshmat won the queen and played a third spade. Dummy's king was allowed to score so Sabah pitched a club from hand and played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing, followed by ace and another club. Fatma won the ♣Q, cashed the ace of hearts to prevent a second diamond ruff in dummy, and declarer was therefore left with a diamond loser at the end so was down one for -50.

Had declarer led a low club towards the jack instead of playing ace and another, Fatma would have had to go in with the queen to draw the third round of trumps, else declarer would have been home with nine tricks.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fatma</i>	<i>Al Sabah</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Al Refaie</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	All Pass		

Facing a passed hand, Fatma could have passed the 1NT response but habit is habit and 2♣ would have been her bid facing a non-passed hand, so...

Sabah led the five of clubs against 2♣, Refaie winning the king and switching to the two of hearts. Sabah won the king and ace then played a third round, and Fatma threw a diamond from dummy, allowing Refaie a cheap ruff with the ♣6. He returned the ten of spades, Fatma winning the ace and playing the queen of clubs. There was the ace of diamonds to come, so the contract was down one for –100.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fatma</i>	<i>Al Sabah</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Al Refaie</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
3NT	All Pass		

Fatma opened 1♦ then rebid 3NT on the strength of her powerful diamonds. Sabah led the queen of

spades, Refaie overtaking with the ace and returning a suit-preference eight. Fatma won the king, cashed the diamonds, then had three hearts to cash, Sabah having abandoned clubs to prevent dummy's fourth heart from winning a trick. Fatma had 10 tricks anyway so that was +430.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fatma</i>	<i>Al Sabah</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Al Refaie</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

A major benefit of two over one GF is that responder in this kind of auction can agree trumps in a clear manner where those not playing two over one have to go round the houses to do so and slam bidding is much more difficult. And hand in hand with two over one is the serious/non-serious slam try duo. As he admitted afterwards, with six good trumps, two key-cards plus the trump queen, Sabah should have bid 3♠, their version of a non-serious slam try, over Refaie's 3♥ raise. Exactly how the auction would have continued is not clear, but with two first-round controls and a source of tricks, Refaie would surely have co-operated, while over the actual 4♥ sign-off he had no safety at the five level so had to accept his partner's suggestion to stop in game.

Heshmat led the king of spades, a good choice, but no lead was going to threaten this game – or even slam. Sabah won the ace of spades, unblocked the ace of diamonds, and cashed the ace and queen of trumps. When the suit split two-two, he ruffed a club with the ♥K and started on the diamonds, praying for a bad break that might defeat Six. It was not to be. With diamonds three-three, all 13 tricks rolled in for +710.

Egypt won again, this time by 20-12 IMPs, or 13.12-6.88 VPs, and now led by over 36 VPs at the top of the rankings.

# WOMEN 10 – MOROCCO V TUNISIAN

Going into their tenth round match, the Tunisian Women were top of the rankings, while their opposition, Morocco, lay in third place.

This was not a very exciting set of deals.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Najah</i>	<i>Fattouma</i>	<i>Ferdous</i>	<i>Hayat</i>
–	3♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

For Morocco, Fattouma opened 3♣ and, after two passes, Najah doubled when many would have preferred a 4♣ cuebid to show a two-suiter. Not to worry, as Ferdous responded 3♥ despite holding longer diamonds, and Najah could raise to game. Ferdous won the opening club lead with the ace cashed the king of hearts then led a heart to her ace. Leaving one trump outstanding for now, she took the spade finesse and, when it scored, cashed the ♥Q and played ace and a third spade, ruffing. When spades proved to be four-



two, she was left with a loser in the suit, but could establish the fifth spade for her tenth trick; +620.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Najah</i>	<i>Fattouma</i>	<i>Ferdous</i>	<i>Hayat</i>
–	–	1♦	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Hayat overcalled 1♥ and liked Fattouma's cuebid raise sufficiently to go on to game. That might be slightly pushy with three low diamonds and an empty heart suit, but game certainly didn't have to be no play, losing the first three tricks in diamonds and having a slow heart trick to come; down one for -50.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Najah</i>	<i>Fattouma</i>	<i>Ferdous</i>	<i>Hayat</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Najah's jump to 5♣, holding no ace, was very optimistic and got what I think it deserved when Ferdous's perfectly normal dummy for her bidding came down and the partnership was at the five level without an ace between them. Fattouma led a club to her partner's ace and Hayat switched to a spade, Fattouma won the ace and cashed the ace of diamonds, and there was still a fourth ace to come so down two for -100.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Najah</i>	<i>Fattouma</i>	<i>Ferdous</i>	<i>Hayat</i>
1♣	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♥	All Pass

Strong balanced hands are always a problem when, having opened a potentially short club, an opposing pre-empt comes back around. Should opener go quietly and hope to defeat the opposing contract, while at least staying out of trouble herself, or should she double in case partner has enough shape to make something but not the strength to get involved over the pre-empt, but risking that partner will take the double to be based on an unbalanced hand?

Najah wasn't going to be talked out of something so, despite far from ideal shape, reopened with a double, and Ferdous responded in her cheapest and strongest four-card suit and played there. She wasn't thrilled by dummy, but no great harm could come to her in 3♥. Hayat led ace then jack of diamonds, overtaken by Fattouma but ruffed by Ferdous, who crossed to the ace of clubs to ruff dummy's last diamond with the heart queen. Hayat over-ruffed and returned a spade. Ferdous won that, of course, and played a heart, but Ferdous could win that and give her partner a spade ruff, and there was a club to lose at the end for the setting trick; down one for -100.

No harm was done by West's decision to compete over 3♦, as that contract would have been made with an overtrick.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Najah</i>	<i>Fattouma</i>	<i>Ferdous</i>	<i>Hayat</i>
-	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Hayat made a simple spade raise and Fattouma made a mildly optimistic game try, Hayat quickly declining the invitation. Ferdous led the four of clubs to the queen and jack, and Najah switched to a diamond for the ten and queen. Hayat reverted to diamonds, declarer ruffing and cashing the ace of diamonds then ruffing a diamond. A heart went to the king and ace, and a third club was ruffed by Fattouma, who led her last diamond. Ferdous ruffed with the jack in front of dummy and returned the jack of hearts to dummy's queen. There was a heart and a spade to lose from here so the contract was down a trick for -50.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Najah</i>	<i>Fattouma</i>	<i>Ferdous</i>	<i>Hayat</i>
-	-	Pass	Pass
1NT	Dble	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Najah opened a strong NT and Fattouma doubled

to show a single-suited minor. When Ferdous now transferred to spades, Najah completed the transfer and was left to play there. Fattouma cashed the top clubs, finding her partner with three of the suit, so switched to the eight of hearts at trick three, the queen losing to the king. Najah crossed to the queen of diamonds to lead a spade to the jack and queen, won the heart return in dummy and led a second spade up, Hayat winning the ace and returning a heart. Najah won that and cashed the king of spades, so had nine tricks for +140.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

<p>♠ 9 ♥ Q J 4 3 ♦ 10 8 3 2 ♣ K J 8 6</p>		<p>♠ J 7 6 5 2 ♥ K 6 ♦ J 5 4 ♣ 10 9 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 8 3 ♥ 9 5 2 ♦ A K Q ♣ Q 7 4 3</p>
---	--	---	---

West	North	East	South
Najah	Fattouma	Ferdous	Hayat
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Again najah opened 1NT and declared 2♠ after a transfer sequence. Fattouma led the eight of diamonds so Hayat won that and cashed two more diamonds before switching to a club. Hayat won the ace and drew three rounds of trumps, after which there was just one club to be lost; +110.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ – ♥ 10 5 ♦ K Q 5 2 ♣ K Q J 10 9 8 2</p>		<p>♠ A Q 10 4 3 ♥ J 3 2 ♦ 10 4 3 ♣ 5 3</p>	<p>♠ J 9 8 5 2 ♥ K Q 9 7 ♦ 9 6 ♣ 6 4</p>
--	--	--	--

West	North	East	South
Najah	Fattouma	Ferdous	Hayat
1♣	1NT	2♠	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

Personally, I would double a 1♣ opening with the North hand as clubs is my shortest suit and I do not have a positional club stopper. However, my wife would always overcall 1NT when balanced and in range with a stopper so we all have our personal styles. Fattouma's 1NT overcall saw Ferdous compete with 2♠, but Najah wasn't interested in any trump suit other than her own – and who can blame her? She converted to 3♣ and that concluded the auction.

Fattouma led out ace and another trump, Najah winning and cashing an extra round for luck. She then exited with the ten of hearts hoping for some help from the defence. Hayat won the queen and returned the nine of diamonds to the queen and ace, but now Fattouma switched back to ace and another heart. She had opted for a diamond pitch at trick three, so there was only one more diamond to be lost but that was enough to defeat the contract; down one for -50.

Tunisia won the match by 17-0 IMPs, converting to 15.75-4.25 VPs, to consolidate their position at the top of the rankings.



# OPEN 11 – SAUDI ARABIA V UAE

Going into this match, Saudi Arabia and UAE were close to each other in the rankings, only about 5 VPs between third-placed Saudi Arabia and fourth-placed UAE, and both well in touch with second-placed Morocco.

West	North	East	South
Hakim	Timur	Bassem	Elvan
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hakim	Timur	Bassem	Elvan
–	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

The 1NT rebid was 15-18 and did not, as we can see, deny four-card support for partner's major. Two Diamonds was game-forcing checkback and 3♥ showed both four-card support and a maximum.

Hakim led the two of spades to the king and ace, and Elvan led a heart to the jack at trick two and, when it scored, continued with the ace and king before leading the jack of clubs to her nine and Hakim's ace. Hakim cashed the queen of spades and continued with a third spade, but Elvan could ruff that and the even club split meant that she had the rest for +450.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Bassem opened 1♦ and rebid 2NT, raised to game by Hakim. Elvan led the two of clubs, Bassem trying the ten from dummy and ducking when it was covered by the jack. He won the club continuation with the king and played three rounds of spades, establishing the thirteenth card, the ten, as a winner. Winning the club return he cashed out four hearts and the long spade so had nine tricks for +400.

I guess it was too tough for the defence to appreciate that he had offered them a chance to beat him by ducking the club so that they could have cashed out three diamond tricks when in with the spade. A lucky escape, perhaps, but a not uncommon occurrence for such a lapse to go unpunished.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hakim	Timur	Bassem	Elvan
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

A simple auction saw Bassem declare the spade game. After a club lead to the jack and king, he led a spade to the king and a second spade, crashing the



ace and queen together. He had just to lose one heart trick so that was plus one and +650.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Hakim</i>	<i>Timur</i>	<i>Bassem</i>	<i>Elvan</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	2♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Elvan showed the majors via a 2♦ jump overcall and Timur, with something of a double fit, opted to jump to the heart game. Bassem led his singleton heart and Timur ran it to the king. Hakim switched to a club for the king and ace and Bassem tried a second club. No, that got ruffed and Timur drew trumps then took the spade finesse. On winning the ♠K, Bassem cashed the ace of diamonds for down one and -100.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Hakim</i>	<i>Timur</i>	<i>Bassem</i>	<i>Elvan</i>
-	Pass	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

I like Elvan's third in hand pre-empt, which is very much in my own style. The Saudi pair did very well to overcome it and stop in their best spot of 3♠ and make it exactly when 3♦ would also have made exactly.

Elvan led the jack of diamonds and Timur won the ace and switched to ace then jack of hearts. Elvan overtook and played the ♥K, but there was nothing coming for the defence in the black suits and that was +140.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Hakim</i>	<i>Timur</i>	<i>Bassem</i>	<i>Elvan</i>
-	-	1♣	3♦
3♠	4♣	4♠	All Pass

Elvan had almost the same diamond holding as on the previous deal and again bid 3♦, this time as an overcall. Again, I approve, this is exactly what I would have bid, whether or not I had a weak jump overcall available as an alternative, which Elvan did not. Three Diamonds was not sufficient to shut out Hakim, of course, and now Timur cuebid to show good values in a diamond raise. Elvan was not interested in bidding further so Bassem's 4♠ bought the contract.

Timur cashed the ace of hearts, Elvan following with the jack, and switched to a diamond. Hakim won that and took the losing spade finesse, won the club return with the ace, ruffed a club, bringing down the queen, and drew trumps ending in dummy to run the clubs; 11 tricks for +650.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South	West	North	East	South
Hakim	Timur	Bassem	Elvan	Hakim	Timur	Bassem	Elvan
–	–	–	1NT	1♠	Pass	4♣	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass
2♠	Dble	Pass	2NT				
3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass				

Elvan's 1NT was 12-15 and Bassem scraped up a double in fourth seat. Hakim took it out into 2♠ and Timur doubled for take-out. Two No Trump showed two places to play and the UAE pair scrambled their way into their four-four diamond fit.

The club lead went to the king and ace and Elvan played the ♦K, which was ducked, followed by ♦4 to queen and ace. A low heart return was won with the seven, and the last trump drawn. Elvan knocked out the ace of hearts, and Bassem cashed his partner's ace of spades; 10 tricks for +130.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

	♠ A
	♥ Q J 9 4
	♦ 9 3
	♣ A Q J 10 6 4

Would Hakim and Bassem have bid to slam unopposed? We will never know, but they guessed well after Elvan had taken away a level of bidding space by bidding 5♣ over Bassem's splinter response to the 1♠ opening. Bassem clearly thought that his partner must have a diamond control if he could make a slam try by cuebidding what must be a heart shortage, and jumped to 6♠ over 5♥ after very little thought.

Timur led a heart against 6♠. Hakim ruffed in hand and led the queen of spades and there was an almighty crash as the king and ace fell together. Hakim won the diamond return and crossed to dummy with a club ruff to play ace, king and ruff a heart, and the even split meant that he had a third discard for his diamonds and so had no need to worry about the diamond position. Twelve tricks meant an excellent +980 for Saudi Arabia, and a nice way to end my coverage of day two.

They had won a surprisingly low-scoring match, given the lively auctions we have seen, by 14-1 IMPs, or 14.68-5.32 VPs.



# RESULTS

## ROUND 7

		IMPs	VPs 1	VPs 2
Saudi Arabia (Open)	Morocco (Open)	39-13	17.69	2.31
UAE (Open)	Kuwait (Open)	24-16	13.12	6.88
Jordan (Open)	Egypt (Open)	7-31	2.69	17.31
Egypt (Women)	Morocco (Women)	7- 3	11.67	8.33
Tunisia (Women)	-- --		12.00	
UAE (Women)	Saudi Arabia (Women)	23- 7	15.50	4.50
Jordan (Women)	Palestine (Women)	17-19	9.14	10.86

## ROUND 8

		IMPs	VPs 1	VPs 2
UAE (Open)	Saudi Arabia (Open)	7-20	5.32	14.68
Jordan (Open)	Morocco (Open)	18- 5	14.68	5.32
Egypt (Open)	Kuwait (Open)	20-12	13.12	6.88
-- --	Egypt (Women)			12.00
Saudi Arabia (Women)	Morocco (Women)	46- 1	20.00	0.00
Palestine (Women)	9 Tunisia (Women)	37- 9	18.04	1.96
Jordan (Women)	10 UAE (Women)	3-27	2.69	17.31

## ROUND 9

		IMPs	VPs 1	VPs 2
Saudi Arabia (Open)	Jordan (Open)	49-25	17.31	2.69
Egypt (Open)	UAE (Open)	26-13	14.68	5.32
Kuwait (Open)	Morocco (Open)	16-37	3.32	16.68
Egypt (Women)	Saudi Arabia (Women)	20- 2	16.00	4.00
Palestine (Women)	-- --		12.00	
Jordan (Women)	Morocco (Women)	28-28	10.00	10.00
UAE (Women)	Tunisia (Women)	22-43	3.32	16.68

## ROUND 10

		IMPs	VPs 1	VPs 2
Egypt (Open)	Saudi Arabia (Open)	27- 6	16.68	3.32
Kuwait (Open)	Jordan (Open)	16-12	11.67	8.33
Morocco (Open)	UAE (Open)	18- 3	15.23	4.77
Palestine (Women)	Egypt (Women)	11- 6	12.05	7.95
Jordan (Women)	Saudi Arabia (Women)	10- 2	13.12	6.88
UAE (Women)	-- --		12.00	
Tunisia (Women)	Morocco (Women)	17- 0	15.75	4.25

## ROUND 11

		IMPs	VPs 1	VPs 2
Egypt (Open)	Kuwait (Open)	25- 4	16.68	3.32
Morocco (Open)	Jordan (Open)	6-19	5.32	14.68
Saudi Arabia (Open)	UAE (Open)	14- 1	14.68	5.32
Egypt (Women)	Jordan (Women)	1-16	4.77	15.23
UAE (Women)	Palestine (Women)	24- 1	17.11	2.89
Tunisia (Women)	Saudi Arabia (Women)	17- 0	15.75	4.25
Morocco (Women)	-- --		12.00	

## ROUND 12

		IMPs	VPs 1	VPs 2
Jordan (Open)	Egypt (Open)	19- 2	15.75	4.25
Kuwait (Open)	UAE (Open)	35-30	12.05	7.95
Morocco (Open)	Saudi Arabia (Open)	44-16	18.04	1.96
UAE (Women)	Egypt (Women)	24-36	5.61	14.39
Tunisia (Women)	Jordan (Women)	19-32	5.32	14.68
Morocco (Women)	Palestine (Women)	11-38	2.13	17.87
-- --	Saudi Arabia (Women)			12.00