

Arab Bridge League

ABL Online Mixed Teams

17- 31 January 2021



Bulletin 3

Tuesday 19th January

Editor Ron Tacchi

The Round Robin Continues

On the second day of the Round Robin in Group A all the matches were close, the biggest victory going to **EGYJOR** who amassed just over fourteen points. They now head their Group but the difference between first and last is less than nine points - one set of swingy deals can turn that order on its head.

In Group B there was more action, the biggest winners were **QUEENS** with over nineteen points but **DIAMOND** had nearly eighteen. Those two head the standings and have opened up a gap, albeit only eight points from the rest. Those at the bottom will need to have a couple of good results if they are to climb up into the top four and thus be part of the knock out phase.

Group A	Al Yass	EGY-JOR	Lions	Nine	Sharjah	WASO	Rk	VPs
EGYJOR	10				14.18		1	24.18
Al-Yassamen		10		12.03			2	22.03
WASO			9.39	12.29			3	21.68
Sharjah Club		5.82	15.38				4	21.2
Nine	7.97					7.71	5	15.68
Lions					4.62	10.61	6	15.23

Group B	Cedars 2	Di- mond	Fri -ends	Pepsi	Queen	Trump	Rk	VPs
Diamond			14.6			17.97	1	32.57
Queens	12.29		19.34				2	31.63
Pepsi	13.04					10.31	3	23.35
Cedars 2				6.96	7.71		4	14.67
TRUMPS		2.03		9.69			5	11.72
Friends	5.4			0.66			6	6.06

Results Round Robin 2 Group A

Team	Team	IMPs	VPs	VPs
LIONS	WASO	26-24	10.61	9.39
Al-Yassamen	NINE	41-34	12.03	7.97
EGYJOR	Sharjah Club	35-19	14.18	5.82

Results Round Robin 2 Group B

Team	Team	IMPs	VPs	VPs
CEDARS 2	PEPSI	41-52	6.96	13.04
DIAMOND	TRUMPS	44-5	17.97	2.03
FRIENDS	QUEENS	11-63	0.66	19.34

All information can be found on the website:

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

Very important notes, Kindly circulate to all of your players

1. The BBO accounts for the TDs are as follows :
ABL, ABL_1, ABL_2, ABL_3, ABL_4 and ABL_5
2. At the beginning of each match/session, the TDs have to start more than one table at the same time in order to host all the championship matches and they place the players in their seats according to pre-sent line-up.... Sometimes, we have a late offline players (please check the event regulations for penalty of late arrival at BBO) and this may cause some delay in the other matches/tables.

In order for the TDs to avoid this, they will hold an empty seat for you and they will move to host another match and then back to the late table. For that reason, it is quiet normal that your players might have a message from the TD through the BBO server with the following text

Want to substitute

Would you like to play in Teams tournament # xxxxxx Teams “ABL Mixed Teams Championship as a substitute? Your partner will be xxxxxxxx”

YES NO

Please alert your players to accept this request ASAP.

*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.

Group A

Day Date	RR - Match 3 / 5			
	GMT Time : 16:00			
Wednesday 20.01.21	1	WASO	X 4	Al-Yassamen
	5	Lions	X 3	EGYJOR
	6	Nine	X 2	Sharjah Club

Group B

Day Date	RR - Match 3 / 5			
	GMT Time : 16:00			
Wednesday 20.01.21	1	Pepsi	X 4	Diamond
	5	CEDARS 2	X 3	Friends
	6	TRUMPS	X 2	Queens



EGYJOR

Round Robin 2

Sharjah Club

Sharjah Club had the biggest win yesterday and today are pitted against EGYJOR who first match resulted in a tie – so two unbeaten teams.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 1042	♠ J7	♠ Q432	♠ 108
♥ AQ62	♥ J1098	♥ AJ82	♥ Q5
♦ KJ6	♦ AQ985	♦ A82	♦ KQJ1054
♣ QJ4	♣ A8	♣ 102	♣ K63
♠ 53	♠ AKQ986	♠ K5	♠ K5
♥ 53	♥ K74	♥ K1093	♥ K1093
♦ 10432	♦ 7	♦ 63	♦ 63
♣ K10753	♣ 962	♣ J9875	♣ J9875

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hindi	Dajani	Mekky	Azzam
–	1♣	1♦	Double
4♦	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

In response to her partner's overcall West led the ♦3 to jack and king. East then cashed the ♣A, when West followed with the ♣5 it did not appear to me that West was encouraging and maybe reading the original lead to be a doubleton or singleton East switched back to the ace of diamonds which gave declarer the rest of tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Heshmat	Qasim	A.Ghazala	Sumar
–	1♣	1♦	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Again West led a diamond, this time the deuce. East took her queen and cashed the ace of clubs. This time West played the ♣7 and East continued and then got her club ruff to take the contract down. If from West's point of view a high club encouraged then why not play the ten, it is not a card that has any value when you can see the ♣QJ in dummy – it just make things easier for partner. A good start for EGYJOR and ten IMPs.

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Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ AJ976	♠ 108
♥ 764	♥ Q5
♦ 97	♦ KQJ1054
♣ AQ4	♣ K63
♠ N	♠ N
W	E
S	S
♠ J7	♠ K5
♥ J1098	♥ K1093
♦ AQ985	♦ 63
♣ A8	♣ J9875

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hindi	Dajani	Mekky	Azzam
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♦	Double
Redble	Pass	Pass	2♠
3♦	All Pass		

Might one have considered 2NT rather than 3♦ with the West hand but partner would probably not go on to game as you have already passed. Declarer lost the obvious three tricks to score an overtrick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Heshmat	Qasim	A.Ghazala	Sumar
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	1♠	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

At this table West valued his hand as worthy of an opening bid and a 2NT rebid over his partner's 2♦ bid and when East raised her partner to game it was up to West put his money where his mouth was. Declarer had eight tricks with the heart finesse working and so needed one trick from the black suits. If the defence attacked one of them it would generate a trick (I suspect East was aware of the formidable value of her ♠A) and if they did not he could lead towards the ♠K. A successful very thin 3NT – yes sometimes they do come off, another ten IMPs to EGYJOR.

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Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 7532	♠ K986	♠ 10843	♠ A96
♥ AJ	♥ K1074	♥ K8	♥ A32
♦ J10762	♦ AQ	♦ KQ109	♦ 8652
♣ J6	♣ A92	♣ A64	♣ K103
♠ AJ104	♠ Q	♠ KQJ2	♠ K975
♥ 9532	♥ Q86	♥ Q1065	
♦ 3	♦ K9854	♦ J	
♣ Q543	♣ K1087	♣ Q975	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hindi	Dajani	Mekky	Azzam
-	-	1NT	All Pass

West did not think her hand warranted a response as did the majority of players in the West seat. She then sat there and watched her partner take ten tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Heshmat	Qasim	Ghazala	Sumar
-	-	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
2NT	both maj		
3♦	trx to ♥		

West obviously had had an extra Weetabix for breakfast this morning as he barnstormed into the heart game. It only required not to lose a spade, not to lose three hearts and not to lose two clubs. Fortune certainly favoured the brave on this deal and another ten IMPs to EGYJOR.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 75	♠ A96
♥ J974	♥ A32
♦ A743	♦ 8652
♣ J82	♣ K103
♠ AJ104	♠ KQJ2
♥ 9532	♥ Q1065
♦ 3	♦ J
♣ Q543	♣ Q975

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hindi	Dajani	Mekky	Azzam
1♦	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
2♦	inverted		

Another low point count 3NT – a seemingly recurring theme this evening. Would this one come home as well? South made the standard lead of the ♠K taken immediately by declarer who attacked the diamond suit and was no doubt pleased to see the ♦J appear. North held off for two rounds and saw South's first discard was the ♠2, followed by a small club. North was now in the spotlight, if she chose wisely the contract would fail, a heart was needed so as to establish two tricks before declarer could set up his ninth trick in the spade suit. Unfortunately she made the neutral lead of another diamond. Declarer was now home.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Heshmat	Qasim	A.Ghazala	Sumar
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Systemically West opened One Club and when Partner invited game with his uninspiring twelve count did not accept. That was six IMPs to Sharjah Club, their first since an overtrick point on Board 5.



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Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ Q 10632	♠ AKJ5
♥ Q 108	♥ 765
♦ Q982	♦ A6
♣ 6	♣ KQ87
♠ 984	♠ 7
♥ KJ432	♥ A9
♦ 43	♦ KJ1075
♣ A103	♣ J9542

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hindi	Dajani	Mekky	Azzam
-	-	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West calmly and correctly described her hand and her partner accepted the invitation to bid game. South led his singleton spade, taken cheaply by declarer who immediately led out a trump. South

sprung up with his ace and attempted to find an entry in his partner's hand with a club lead. When dummy's ♣10 held and both defenders followed to the next round of trumps he had eleven tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Heshmat	Qasim	A.Ghazala	Sumar
-	-	1NT	2NT*
Double	3♦	3♠	All Pass
2NT	mins		

When South showed the minors what was West to do? I do not know their methods but a natural 3♥ would have been a nice bid to have available. East took it as takeout and bid her better major which left West in a quandary. After some serious reflection he left his partner in the spade part-score. It was not a success and drifted one off and eleven IMPs to Sharjah Club.

At the end of the match EGYJOR had held on to a modest lead and won 35-19.

Undo regulations

1. The undo button is activated from the beginning
2. Click the undo button to stop the play instead of typing STOP at the table chat.... It will be used just as a stop button.
3. Call the TD
4. **No Action from any party will be taken before the arrival of the TD.**
5. The TD will instruct the opponents whether to accept the undo or not.
6. The TD will keep counting the undoes for each player, only 2 undoes are allowed for each player during one session.
7. **If the opponents accept – before the TD arrival – , play continue but they might be penalized and all parties forfeit their rights for any kind of rectification later on.**
8. **If the opponents don't accept – before the TD arrival – , play stops and the TD decide what is to be done.**
9. **The TDs reserve the rights to adjust the score of the board for any unauthorised information might arise from using the undo process.**
10. **The Head TD has all the rights to deactivate the undo button at any time if problems arise from activating the button.**





Last Round Look Back

There was one board in yesterday's session that created a double digit swing in four out of the six matches.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ A3	♠ KQ1086
♥ 987	♥ J432
♦ KQ84	♦ J
♣ A976	♣ 432
♠ 972	
♥ A5	
♦ 1097	
♣ KQ1085	
	♠ J54
	♥ KQ106
	♦ A6532
	♣ J

N
W E
S

In all four matches one table played in game and made and on the other it was a part-score. In one of those it was East who played in Three Spades. When, for systemic reasons, North opened 1♣, East made a brave weak two overcall in spades, South doubled and West raised to 3♠. Neither North nor South could find an avenue back into the auction, on very exact defence it can fail by two tricks but at the table it was only one off but that made no difference to the IMPs when a vulnerable game was made in the other room.

Three times the contract was 3NT played by North and each time the lead was the ♠K and now declarer always had a route to nine tricks, can you see the importance of the ♣9 in declarer's hand? It means that as declarer has to lose the lead twice to set up a heart and a spade the defence can only take two club tricks.

The table where the final contract was 5♦ was given a helping hand with the play in the auction. East overcalled the opening bid of 1♦ with 2♦ showing the majors. So to hold his heart losers to one he could finesse against the ♥J in the East hand with a fair amount of certainty.

Three of the four hands where game was not bid North had opened with 1♣ rather than 1♦, I am not saying that 1♦ is a better opening bid but on this hand it made things a lot easier. The one occasion where North opened 1♦ and the final contract was 4♦ the bidding went as follows Pass-1♦-1♠-Double-2♠-3♣-Pass-?. At the table East bid 4♦ which was passed out by North, maybe a better bid would have been 3♠, asking for a spade stop. If partner denies one then you can retreat into diamonds without any worries.

The table that finished in 2NT was again one where North had opened 1♦, it was actually a good decision to stop in 2NT as it was South who was the declarer and the limit was eight tricks

Yet again an apparently simple and boring hand that was full of possibilities and varying results.