

Arab Bridge League

ABL Online Mixed Teams

17-31 January 2021



Bulletin 7

Wednesday 27th January

Editor Ron Tacchi

Next, The Semi-finals

Three of the quarter-finals were very close. **WASO** came from four behind after the first session but won the second by five to win by one and knock out **Cedars 2**. **EGYJOR** were ahead at half time playing against **Pepsi** but scored heavily in the second half. **Diamond** were another team that overturned a small deficit against **Nine** to win by three in the second session to book themselves a place in the semi-finals. Sharjah Club held on to their slender lead when they drew against **Queens** in part two.

The two semi-finals are WASO versus Sharjah Club and EGYJOR against Diamond.



Arab Bridge League ABL online Mixed Teams Quarter Final

M	Team	C.O	S 1	S 2	Total	PEN.
			IMP	IMP	IMP	
1	WASO	0.5	<u>38</u>	<u>31</u>	69.5	1.5
	CEDARS 2	0	<u>42</u>	<u>26</u>	68.0	-1.5
2	EGYJOR	0.5	<u>21</u>	<u>43</u>	64.5	23.5
	PEPSI	0	<u>17</u>	<u>24</u>	41.0	-23.5
3	DIAMOND	0.5	<u>28</u>	<u>37</u>	65.5	3.5
	NINE	0	<u>31</u>	<u>31</u>	62.0	-3.5
4	QUEENS	0.5	<u>7</u>	<u>16</u>	23.5	-5.5
	SHARJAH CLUB	0	<u>13</u>	<u>16</u>	29.0	5.5

CTD : Waleed El Menyawi

TD's : Raad Otoum - Khaled Hassan - Ibrahim Alahdal - Tarek AbdEL Rahman





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



WASO

Quarter-final 1

Cedars 2

Of the four quarter-finals I decided to take the first one in the list and then for the second set see who was closest and thus, perhaps, be an interesting match. So Cedars 2 squared up against WASO. WASO had won their group and had chosen Cedars 2 in preference to Pepsi.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ J 10 4		♠ AKQ 8 5
♥ A 7 6 5 4		♥ J 9 8
♦ 10 8 4		♦ Q
♣ Q 8		♣ K 6 5 4
♠ 9 6 3 2	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	
♥ K 3		
♦ AKJ 9 5		
♣ 9 7		
♠ 7		
♥ Q 10 2		
♦ 7 6 3 2		
♣ AJ 10 3 2		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Traboulsi	Hitti	Haddad
–	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
2NT	jacoby		

When South picked a heart to lead North took his ace and returned the ♣Q for two club tricks and a ruff to take the first four tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sweidan	El Ahmdy	Azem	El Araby
–	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3NT*	Pass	4♠	All Pass
2NT	jacoby		
3♦	singleton		
3NT	Minimum		

In this room the lead was also a heart to North's ace and the return was a club, but unfortunately a small one and when declarer put up the king there were two club tricks for the defence but no ruff so the contract was home. The first ten IMPs to Cedar 2.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 9 3 2		♠ J 8
♥ Q 5		♥ AK 2
♦ Q 6 5 4		♦ AJ 10 7
♣ A 8 3		♣ KJ 6 4
♠ AQ 7 6 4	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	
♥ J 10 8 7 4 3		
♦ –		
♣ 10 2		
♠ K 5		
♥ 9 6		
♦ K 9 8 3 2		
♣ Q 9 7 5		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Traboulsi	Hitti	Haddad
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Not being in slam declarer played to make ensure the game and when spades broke 4-2 declarer took ten tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sweidan	El Ahmdy	Azem	El Araby
–	–	1NT	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♦*	Pass	6♥	All Pass
6♦	1 ace, diamond void		

South led a trump to the jack, queen and ace. After the trump lead to make the slam declarer basically needs the spade finesse and a 3-3 break. As you can see that is not the case so the low chance slam did not come off. Eleven IMPs to WASO.





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Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ AKQ1085		
♥ J8		
♦ Q104		
♣ 52		
♠ J97		♠ 42
♥ K96		♥ AQ542
♦ 87		♦ K93
♣ A10843		♣ KJ7
	♠ 63	
	♥ 1073	
	♦ AJ652	
	♣ Q96	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Traboulsi	Hitti	Haddad
Pass	1♠	2♥	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

North was put under pressure with the 3♥ bid and elected to not risk a vulnerable three-level bid. South led partner's suit and North took two tricks and played a third round. Declarer ruffed small (had he ruffed high the ♥10 would have been promoted) and was overruffed but now North could never lead a diamond through declarer's holding so if declarer correctly guessed the club suit he was home. Can you see how the defence could have prevailed? At trick three if North had switched to a high diamond what does East do? If he does not cover now North leads the third round of spades. If he does cover South takes the ace and under-leads his ♦J do partner's ten for the killing third round of spades. Had North held the ♦QJ then the defence might have been found.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sweidan	El Ahmdy	Azem	El Araby
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

When East made a slightly timid pass it was even more difficult to come back into the auction at the three-level. When East led a trump declarer had eleven tricks when the ♦K was favourably placed. Eight IMPs to WASO.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ QJ532		
♥ —		
♦ KJ872		
♣ 432		
♠ A94		♠ 108
♥ 93		♥ KQJ102
♦ AQ10963		♦ 4
♣ 87		♣ J10965
	♠ K76	
	♥ A87654	
	♦ 5	
	♣ AKQ	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Traboulsi	Hitti	Haddad
—	Pass	2♥*	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	
2♥	♥ and minor < opening		

I am sure East feels aggrieved at the unkind split and was held to the obvious six tricks to fail by two.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sweidan	El Ahmdy	Azem	El Araby
—	2♠*	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠
2♠	♠ and a min		

Another two-suited opener, I bet both players wished they had not. South's bid looks a bit optimistic, I am sure that there are other routes to move more slowly to consider whether a slam is possible. At first sight there appears to be only two losers and that may well be so but there does not seem to be a lot of tricks. While it is possible to make ten tricks double dummy, declarer had a shot at the contract and ended up losing trump control and having to play diamonds from hand and going three off. Twelve IMPs to Cedars 2.





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Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 64		♠ AQ108
♥ Q105		♥ A643
♦ K9		♦ Q732
♣ Q96532		♣ J
♠ J752	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K93
♥ K972		♥ J8
♦ J1064		♦ A85
♣ 8		♣ AK1074

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Traboulsi	Hitti	Haddad
–	–	1♦	1NT
2♦	3♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

South took a stab at the minor-suit game rather than 3NT. Unfortunately there were three top losers and so declarer had to concede one off.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sweidan	El Ahmdy	Azem	El Araby
–	–	1♦	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Declarer has eight top tricks and if the defence attack the majors then they set up the ninth trick and if they leave declarer in peace he can lead up to his spade king – either way nine tricks and the game and ten IMPs to WASO.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ 84		♠ AQJ10653
♥ KJ53		♥ 108
♦ K10543		♦ AQ9
♣ 97		♣ 3
♠ 9	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K72
♥ AQ74		♥ 962
♦ 8762		♦ J
♣ KJ42		♣ AQ10865

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Traboulsi	Hitti	Haddad
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣
Pass	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Both East and West had plenty in reserve for their bids and so rested in a part-score and eventually gathered eleven tricks as the defence started with the ♦J and when declarer led towards dummy's club hopped up with the ace and led another and declarer profited from the free finesse and then only lost a trick to the trump king.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sweidan	El Ahmdy	Azem	El Araby
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass

East started with the full value of the hand and again when the lead was the ♦J declarer was not hard pressed to take ten tricks and nine IMPs for Cedars2

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 964		♠ Q83
♥ K2		♥ Q107
♦ KJ642		♦ 107
♣ QJ10		♣ AK932
♠ 72	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ AKJ105
♥ A654		♥ J983
♦ 9853		♦ AQ
♣ 764		♣ 85

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Traboulsi	Hitti	Haddad
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Double	4♠
All Pass			

South only needed to be asked once and promptly bid game. West led his partner's suit won by East who switched to a heart which West took and led a diamond to declarer's ace. The ace of trumps was cashed and dummy entered with the ♥K on





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which East dropped the ♥10. A successful spade finesse ensued and the outstanding trump drawn. Now declarer could overtake the ♦Q with the ♦K and cash the jack discarding his losing club, even though the diamonds did not break declarer could come back to hand by ruffing a diamond. As he had seen the ♥10 drop earlier his ♥J9 were equals against the ♥Q and so he could set up his tenth trick in hearts. Had the defence taken the other top club earlier then the third club in dummy and the diamond would have allowed the two hearts to be discarded.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sweidan</i>	<i>El Ahmdy</i>	<i>Azem</i>	<i>El Araby</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

North was not so forward as in the other room and South did not warrant his hand worthy of further exploration. And that was ten IMPs to Cedars 2.

At the end of a high-scoring match Cedars 2 had just edged it 42-38. All to play for in the second session.

Quarter-final Butler Rankings

Rank	IMPs	Names	Teamw
1	0.95	Damas1 HALA DAJANI - Azzam1 AYMAN AZZAM	EGYJOR
2	0.88	Kinamih HIMANI KHANDELWAL - rajeevkhan RAJEEV KHANDELWAL	SHARJAH CLUB
3	0.75	rsaad20 RASHA SAAD - sale7dar ALI EL-SELEHDAR	DIAMOND
4	0.6	sawires MINA SAWIRES - zewzew JEHANE MISHRIKI	NINE
5	0.54	mnkas MARIA HINDI - amr mekky AMR MEKKY	SHARJAH CLUB
6	0.42	tetalolla HALA ABOUL FARAJ - abulmish1 MICHAEL EIDI	QUEENS
7	0.25	nickd NIKOS DELIMPALTADAKIS	PEPSI
8	0.23	Heshmat1 MOHAMED HESHMAT - mimia MIMI ABOU GHAZALA	EGYJOR
9	0.17	setra SALIM TRABOULSI - nemesis8 Wafa HADDAD	CEDARS 2
10	0.14	waso WALEED EL AHMDY - nadiat NADIA EL ARABY	WASO
11	-0.14	Duffyduc1 FAYZA AZEM - abdeen ABDO SWEIDAN	CEDARS 2
12	-0.17	mia 7 MAREILLE HITTI - tantouna TONI HACHEM	WASO
13	-0.23	Sodaspring KIKI WARD-PLATT	PEPSI
14	-0.42	kinetics HUMAYUN SUMAR - nims1 NERMEEN QASIM	SHARJAH CLUB
15	-0.54	Moni207 MONA BAMEHRZ - bill123 VASSEILIE VROUSTIS	QUEENS
16	-0.6	Mooaaz MOAAZ HAMMAM - nelly4 MANAL SALLAM	DIAMOND
17	-0.7	Mido FRANCK MULTON	PEPSI
18	-0.75	fahda FATMA MANADILY - dodo880 AHMED SAMIR ZAKI	NINE
19	-0.88	Albatala HANA KREIDIEH - Yanas KHALED AL KATTAN	QUEENS
20	-0.95	pikolo JACEK PSZCZOLA - mayyou MAY SAKR	PEPSI





EGYJOR

Quarter-final 2

Pepsi

My plan had been to watch the closest match in the second session, as the differences were 4, 3, 6 and 4, I changed my plan to report on the first match that came up. It was Pepsi pitted against EGYJOR. Pepsi were lagging four points behind but that is a mere trifle in the heat of the battle.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 53	♠ J6	♠ AKQ 107
♥ J32	♥ K10984	♥ 765
♦ J104	♦ A9	♦ KQ652
♣ Q9762	♣ AJ108	♣ —
	♠ 9842	
	♥ AQ	
	♦ 873	
	♣ K543	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	Multon	Heshmat	Ward-Platt
–	1♥	1♠	1NT
Pass	2♣	2♦	4♥
Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

South's brave 4♥ bid paid handsome dividends when East singlehandedly went on to the five-level and lost the top four tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sakr	Dajani	Pepsi	Azzam
–	1♥	2♥*	Double
3♣	Double	3♦	4♣
All Pass			

West's 3♣ was pass or correct. When West led a diamond declarer was in with a shout for a brief second. The ace of diamonds won the trick and declarer fell from grace when a trump was led. To bring home the contract the hearts must be unblocked and then dummy enter with a successful trump finesse and hearts played twice, discarding both diamonds in hand. West can ruff but now declarer has three hearts, a diamond, two

rounds of trumps and four more on a crossruff. It is instructive to play the cards out on the various ways the defence can attempt to counter after the initial non-spade lead. When declarer led trumps he gave the defence the chance to get three rounds of trumps played which reduced declarer's ruffs. Initial blood to Pepsi and eight IMPs.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 1094	♠ 1094	♠ 732
♥ K1076543	♥ K1076543	♥ 9
♦ 9	♦ 9	♦ QJ107652
♣ 75	♣ 75	♣ AJ
♠ AKQ865	♠ AKQ865	♠ J
♥ Q8	♥ Q8	♥ AJ2
♦ K8	♦ K8	♦ A43
♣ K86	♣ K86	♣ Q109432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	Multon	Heshmat	Ward-Platt
–	–	3♦	4♣
4♠	All Pass		

North led his diamond taken by South's ace, declarer ditching the ♦K. South continued with ace and another heart ruffed in dummy. Declarer drew trumps and claimed the rest. Had South returned a diamond for North to ruff then a heart would put South back on lead but now declarer can afford to ruff high on the third round of diamonds.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sakr	Dajani	Pepsi	Azzam
–	–	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
4♥	cue-bid for ♠		

The defence got off to what looked like a bad start when a club was led, which was won in hand and another led to dummy's ace. Declarer played a heart upon which South leapt up with the ace and had the chance to beat the contract by playing





back a club, but no doubt with the idea of cutting down on ruffs in dummy switched to a trump. Now declarer attempted to ruff her losing club. North was able to ruff in before dummy and lead a diamond to South's ace and then ruff a diamond for one off and eleven IMPs to EGYJOR.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ J7
♥ AK8754
♦ 1074
♣ A5

♠ AQ98
♥ 962
♦ Q62
♣ KQJ

♠ K102
♥ QJ10
♦ AKJ
♣ 9876

♠ 6543
♥ 3
♦ 9853
♣ 10432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ghazala</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Ward-Platt</i>
–	1♥	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South paid no heed to partner's opening bid and led a diamond. Now declarer had nine tricks before the defence had five.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sakr</i>	<i>Dajani</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Azzam</i>
–	1♥	Double	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In this room South listened attentively to partner's opening bid and had every confidence in it and placed the ♥3 on the virtual baize, North was not hard pushed to play three rounds of the suit and sit back and wait for a club lead to take a total of five tricks as declarer only had eight tricks without the club suit. Ten IMPs to Cedars 2.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ J63
 ♥ QJ65
 ♦ K72
 ♣ K85

♠ Q42
 ♥ 983
 ♦ J984
 ♣ AJ6

♠ 109875
 ♥ A107
 ♦ Q1065
 ♣ 10

♠ AK
 ♥ K42
 ♦ A3
 ♣ Q97432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ghazala</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Ward-Platt</i>
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Declarer was subjected to a diamond lead which was won in hand and a small club led towards the dummy. The king won but when the suit was continued the bad news came to light and West won and cleared the diamond suit. Now when declarer established the club suit the defence had two diamonds and the heart ace to cash to take the contract one off.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sakr</i>	<i>Dajani</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Azzam</i>
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West tried a small spade taken in hand. Declarer now made the play of the ♣Q from hand which was handsomely rewarded when the ace appeared on the left and the ten on the right and declarer was also a student of 'Restricted Choice' and on the next round of clubs finessed against the jack. Losing only two aces declarer made eleven tricks and thirteen IMPs to EGYJOR.

EGYJOR came out ahead of Pepsi 43-24 and so progressed to the semi-final.

