

Arab Bridge League

ABL Online Mixed Teams

17-31 January 2021



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Editor Ron Tacchi

And The Winner Is...

WINNER

ABL Online Mixed Teams 2021

WASO Team
 Waleed El Ahmady - Nadia El Araby
 Marielle Hitti - Tony Hachem
 Rawya Akl - Mohamed Tanbouli

On the final day of the championship WASO started twelve points behind EGYJOR. On a day with low-scoring boards, WASO took the first session to lead by two points. The final session was again without much chance for big swings and again WASO managed to eke out a thin win 30-11, to increase their lead to 21 and take the championship.

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>	<u>23</u>	<u>30</u>	120.5	
	EGYJOR	0.0	<u>37</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	99.0	

21.5

-21.5





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2021

2nd Place

EGYJOR Team
Hala Dajani – Ayman Azzam
Mimi A. Ghazala – Mohamed Heshmat



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2021

3rd PLACE

SHARJAH CLUB
Nermeen Qasim – Humayun Sumar
Himani Khandelwal – Rajeev Khandelwal
Maria Hindi – Amr Mekky – Nafis Jafer





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EGYJOR

Final 3

WASO

After a lively set of boards yesterday EGYJOR have a slender lead of twelve. WASO will be trying hard to overcome this small deficit.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 108765		♠ QJ92
♥ A32		♥ 874
♦ A42		♦ 653
♣ 98		♣ KJ6
♠ A3	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K4
♥ 65		♥ KQJ109
♦ KQJ10		♦ 987
♣ AQ1052		♣ 743

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Azzam	Hitti	Danjani
–	–	Pass	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

A 5422 pattern is not my favourite for an opening no-trump bid but sometimes it is the least worst option, if you open 1♣ what are you going to rebid over a response of one of a major. After a spade lead declarer had tricks to spare and finished with eleven!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	El Ahmdy	Heshmat	El Araby
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

As postulated above, the perils of the opening 1♣ came home to roost in spades. Declarer had the ignominious task in playing in a contract that broke Burns Law and drifted three off. Seven IMPs back to WASO.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ K108		♠ A7
♥ K73		♥ 5
♦ AJ93		♦ KQ1052
♣ A84		♣ 109632
♠ QJ9654	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 32
♥ J96		♥ AQ10842
♦ 6		♦ 874
♣ KJ5		♣ Q7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Azzam	Hitti	Danjani
–	1NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Nothing is well-placed for declarer and the contract is fated to fail by a trick but when declarer, not unreasonably, ducked the first trick West was able to ruff the next diamond and so that was two off.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	El Ahmdy	Heshmat	El Araby
–	1NT	2♣*	4♦
Pass	4♥	4NT	Pass
5♣	Double	All Pass	
2♣	single-suited!		

When I first joined a bridge club in Kent in the 1960's a little old lady even older than I am now told me after one of my transgressions that the worst bids are the bad bids that do not get punished, when I enquired why she replied that they encouraged even more bad bids. Evidently none of the bids here were of the worst kind. Twelve IMPs to WASO – the lead wiped out.





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Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ AQ987		
♥ Q64		
♦ 4		
♣ QJ98		
♠ J1064		♠ K3
♥ J10		♥ K983
♦ KJ10		♦ Q987632
♣ K654		♣ —
	♠ 52	
	♥ A752	
	♦ A5	
	♣ A10732	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Azzam	Hitti	Danjani
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

I think partnership wires got crossed here, for me 4♣ is 'I've nowhere else to go' not a forward going move. And when things go wrong they can be unforgiving, every finesse failing so two hearts, a spade and a club were lost for minus three.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	El Ahmdy	Heshmat	El Araby
Pass	1♠	3♦	Double
4♦	Pass	Pass	Double
All Pass			

South's Double is a little unfortunate, with everything wrong for team mates in the other room it meant everything right for the opponents in this room and declarer could make ten tricks for an eight IMP swing to EGYJOR.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ Q10986		
♥ AK3		
♦ K3		
♣ K53		
♠ J43		♠ 752
♥ 986		♥ Q102
♦ AQ6		♦ 1075
♣ A974		♣ J1082
	♠ AK	
	♥ J754	
	♦ J9842	
	♣ Q6	

Both teams reached 3NT played from North and both received the ♣J lead to the queen and ace. The return of the ♣4 was ducked and the third round taken by the king. Both declarers now cashed the ♠AK and made an error in playing a heart. To make nine tricks you must make five spade tricks, you already have a club trick and there are two heart tricks for the taking, that makes eight. Where is the ninth to come from? In my opinion there are only two possibilities, dropping the doubleton queen of hearts (about 16%) or finding the ace of diamonds onside (about 50%). Other options are remote, yes I could possibly arrange the cards where the clubs are 5-3 and the long clubs have no entry, but West returned the ♣4 which strongly suggests four cards. This is a situation in which a lot of players think that leading towards the ♦K is dangerous – they might go a lot off. It is true they may make less than eight tricks when that is the limit. Not so bad a couple of undertrick IMPs but if the ♦A is well placed then that is a potential game swing. The diamond play is three times more likely than the heart play. That's the sort of odds I like.

At the end of a session where there was little scope WASO had edged it 23-9, putting them two points ahead of EGYJOR. The last session would be a tight affair.





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WASO

Final 4

EGYJOR

With a very flat set of boards for the third session of the final WASO overcame EGYJOR by fourteen points and so entered the final with the slimmest of advantages – two points.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 853		
♥ 8		
♦ Q9875		
♣ A985		
♠ J10762		♠ AK4
♥ AK97		♥ QJ62
♦ A3		♦ K102
♣ 64		♣ KQJ
	N	
	W	E
	S	
♠ Q9		
♥ 10543		
♦ J64		
♣ 10732		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Heshmat	Hitti	Ghazala
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	All Pass	

With my partner 3♥ shows 5♠ and 4♥ and I think that is what it meant here. However it seems that wires got slightly crossed, did West not believe East had 4♥, was 4NT quantitative and if so why did East not bid the slam. Questions about which I can only speculate. The good news was that there were no mishaps. No another question is whether they should be in slam or not. It is slightly less than 50% (sxQ onside and not Q98x) so is probably not good enough odds.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Danjani	Tanboli	Azzam	Akl
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

3♣ was evidently some kind of checkback/Stayman and when East admitted to a four-card heart suit West took the bull by the horns and bid the slam directly. Eventually declarer took the spade finesse and so was one down. Had partner's not had the ♠10 then he would have made the contract as he would have had no option other than playing to drop the ♠Q, however eleven IMPs to WASO.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ A1053		
♥ A1095		
♦ J54		
♣ 93		
♠ 7		♠ KQ864
♥ 32		♥ 76
♦ AQ		♦ K1093
♣ AJ1087542		♣ Q6
	N	
	W	E
	S	
♠ J92		
♥ KQJ84		
♦ 8762		
♣ K		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Heshmat	Hitti	Ghazala
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

West pre-empted to the maximum. North led out the ♥A on which South dropped the jack. The ♥10 followed and South overtook with the queen and now had to return a spade to break the contract but continued with hearts giving declarer a ruff and discard. The ♣Q from dummy picked up South's king and declarer now had the rest of the tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Danjani	Tanboli	Azzam	Akl
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	2♥
3♣	3♥	4♣	All Pass

West preferred the slower option and stopped in the par contract. The play was mildly amusing as North started with a trump won by declarer in hand





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who drew the outstanding trump and led his spade which North ducked. A spade was ruffed back to hand and the clubs were run and when North discarded a diamond declarer had all thirteen tricks. Five IMPs to WASO.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ AQ5		
♥ AJ85		
♦ Q10875		
♣ K		
♠ J76		♠ K932
♥ K9		♥ Q1064
♦ 962		♦ 4
♣ J8732		♣ 10964
	♠ 1084	
	♥ 732	
	♦ AKJ3	
	♣ AQ5	



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hachem</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Hitti</i>	<i>Ghazala</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
2♦	inverted		

I am certain that a surprisingly large number of partnerships have never fully discussed inverted minor suit raises. I am sure that comment applies to me as well. However in this room everything was well under control and the partnership arrived in a good contract which netted eleven tricks when East led a spade.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Danjani</i>	<i>Tanboli</i>	<i>Azzam</i>	<i>Aki</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

I do not profess to understand the auction and I certainly do not understand the last bid, it seems to me that North has signed off, so why go on. The only realistic hope was that West held ♥KQ (24%) but it was not to be. If East had led a small spade then the contract can be made, but a true double dummy solution, to start with you must play the ♠8 from dummy at trick one, if you have a copy of Deep Finesse and a couple of minutes to spare then it is an amusing diversion. Eleven IMPs back to EGYJOR.

The boards were not conducive to generating swings, there were only two double digit swings and, seven of the boards were flat or a single IMP. WASO again had the better of the exchanges and won the session 30-11 which gave them a 21 point advantage and so were crowned champions.

