

Arab Bridge League

ABL Online Mixed Teams

17-31 January 2021



Bulletin 2

Monday 18th January

Editor Ron Tacchi

The ABL Mixed Teams Championships

The ABL Mixed Team Championships started with sixteen board matches between twelve teams, the first of five rounds of a complete Round Robin. After the completion of the Round Robin there will be quarter-finals, semi-finals and a final.

Today's opening session featured a set of deals that were uninteresting and failed to generate swings. The highest scoring match was Lions versus Sharjah Club who won with 15.38 VPs. The average win was by a mere two and a half VPs.

Monday sees the second of the Round Robin matches where we can hope for more scope for skill and flare.

Please do not forget to complete your line-ups as per the rules

Results Round Robin 1 Group A

Team	Team	IMPs	VPs	VPs
NINE	WASO	37-45	7.71	12.29
LIONS	Sharjah_Club	14-36	4.62	15.38
Al-Yassamen	EGYJOR	25-25	10	10

Results Round Robin 1 Group B

Team	Team	IMPs	VPs	VPs
TRUMPS	PEPSI	34-35	9.69	10.31
CEDARS_2	QUEENS	26-34	7.71	12.29
DIAMOND	FRIENDS	41-23	14.6	5.4

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.





ABL Online Mixed Teams



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 2 / 5			
	GMT Time : 16:00			
Monday 18.01.21	1	WASO	X 5	Lions
	6	Nine	X 4	Al-Yassamen
	2	Sharjah Club	X 3	EGYJOR

Group B

Day Date	RR - Match 2 / 5			
	GMT Time : 16:00			
Monday 18.01.21	1	WASO	X 5	Lions
	6	Nine	X 4	Al-Yassamen
	2	Sharjah Club	X 3	EGYJOR





ABL Online Mixed Teams



Queens

Round Robin 1

Cedars 2

For the first session I chose a match at random and my pin fell upon Queens versus Cedars 2.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A84	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ J10
N						
W		E				
S						
♥ Q4	♥ AKJ10932					
♦ QJ543	♦ 1087					
♣ Q105		♣ 3				
	♠ 97652					
	♥ —					
	♦ A62					
	♣ J8642					

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eidi</i>	<i>Traboulsi</i>	<i>Faraj</i>	<i>Haddad</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	3♥	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

I am not sure what the method employed by South was but the response appeared adventurous as did North's raise to game. West led a heart ruffed by South and a trump towards the dummy was won by the queen. A diamond back to hand was followed by another trump. West rose with the ace and continued with another heart ruffed in hand. Declarer now cashed the ♣AK and exited with another club. West had the choice between exiting with a trump or a diamond, neither would cause declarer any problem and his contract was assured.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sweidan</i>	<i>Mamehrz</i>	<i>Azem</i>	<i>Al Kattan</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	2♣*	Double
Pass	2♥	Double	2♠
Pass	3♠	All Pass	
2♣	single suited		

South's Double was for takeout and when North's heart response was doubled South removed to spades. North made an effort and naturally South declined. East's doubleton ♠J10 helped declarer

but it was not a necessary condition for success. In fact if declarer can divine the club situation he can make a small slam on a heart lead! Six IMPs to Cedars 2.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ J10653	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ —
N						
W		E				
S						
♥ KJ54	♥ 109863					
♦ Q	♦ AJ1053					
♣ Q109		♣ K84				
	♠ K942					
	♥ A					
	♦ K98742					
	♣ AJ					
	♠ AQ87					
	♥ Q72					
	♦ 6					
	♣ 76532					

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eidi</i>	<i>Traboulsi</i>	<i>Faraj</i>	<i>Haddad</i>
—	1♦	1♥	1♠
4♥	4♠	5♥	Pass
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

How many of our players have heard of Ed Manfield, not many at this table it seems – why do I mention Ed Manfield, well if you had read and memorised your Bols Bridge Tips you would know that his tip was 'The five-level belongs to the opposition.' 4♠ was slated to fail by two tricks and 5♥ by only one. One can understand North's continuation but he was not aware of the horrendous spade distribution. West did not find the best lead when he selected the ♥K. Declarer immediately came to hand with a trump and cashed the ♥Q discarding dummy's losing club. A diamond towards the king, gathering the queen, lost to the ace. East continued with the ♦J which was ruffed low and overruffed. West exited with a club to dummy and a further small diamond was led and again ruffed and overruffed. West now played back a trump to South's ace which restricted declarer to just two more tricks and so failed by four tricks.





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Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sweidan</i>	<i>Bamehrz</i>	<i>Azem</i>	<i>Al Kattan</i>
–	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

When East and West did not manage to enter the auction South bid on to game but the bad split in spades caused declarer to fail by two tricks. It must have been a pleasant surprise to discover that such a result was worth fourteen IMPs to Queens.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ K7		♠ A93
♥ Q72		♥ J65
♦ A83		♦ J10
♣ AQJ53		♣ K9842
♠ Q642		♠ J1085
♥ K8		♥ A10943
♦ Q7652		♦ K94
♣ 106		♣ 7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eidi</i>	<i>Traboulsi</i>	<i>Faraj</i>	<i>Haddad</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♥
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North started with a spade (a diamond would have been better) to the ♠10 and ♠K. Declarer now cashed five rounds of clubs finishing in dummy. To make the contract the only card from dummy is the ♥J. This will work if South has both honours or North honour doubleton but a small heart, which was declarer's choice, will lose if North has an honour, which as we can see is the case, thus Declarer failed by a trick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sweidan</i>	<i>Bamehrz</i>	<i>Azem</i>	<i>Al Kattan</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led a fourth-best diamond to the ♦J, ♦K and ♦A. Declarer cashed five rounds of clubs whereupon the defence was less than perfect when North discarded two diamonds and South another. Declarer now played a small diamond toward the ten and pinned the nine, establishing the eight for the ninth trick and twelve IMPs to Cedars 2.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ A2		♠ 1063
♥ A86		♥ K72
♦ A9853		♦ K
♣ J105		♣ KQ8762
♠ K95		♠ QJ874
♥ QJ953		♥ 104
♦ 762		♦ QJ104
♣ 93		♣ A4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eidi</i>	<i>Traboulsi</i>	<i>Faraj</i>	<i>Haddad</i>
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Played by West the lead was always going to be a heart, giving declarer time to establish the club suit and nine tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sweidan</i>	<i>Bamehrz</i>	<i>Azem</i>	<i>Al Kattan</i>
1♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In this room the contract was declared from the other side and now the obvious lead was a spade. Now declarer had no recourse as the defence could cash four spade tricks.

In a match where the boards could not be described as interesting there was little scope for swings and interesting coups, let us hope tomorrow the Great Shuffler gives us some more exciting deals.





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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.

Knock out brackets

Quarter Final

1 st	Group (A)	Vs	4 th Or 3 rd	Group (B)	=	Match (1)
2 nd	Group (A)	Vs	3 rd Or 4 th	Group (B)	=	Match (2)
1 st	Group (B)	Vs	4 th Or 3 rd	Group (A)	=	Match (3)
2 nd	Group (B)	Vs	3 rd Or 4 th	Group (A)	=	Match (4)

Semi Final

Winner of Match (1) Vs Winner of Match (4)

Winner of Match (2) Vs Winner of Match (3)

