

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





ABL Online Mixed Teams



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		♠ AKQ107
♥ J32		♥ 765
♦ J104		♦ KQ652
♣ Q9762		♣ —
	♠ 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		♠ 732
♥ K1076543		♥ 9
♦ 9		♦ QJ107652
♣ 75		♣ AJ
♠ AKQ865		♠ J
♥ Q8		♥ AJ2
♦ K8		♦ A43
♣ 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





ABL Online Mixed Teams



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		♠ K102
♥ AK8754		♥ QJ10
♦ 1074		♦ AKJ
♣ A5		♣ 9876
♠ AQ98		♠ 6543
♥ 962		♥ 3
♦ Q62		♦ 9853
♣ KQJ		♣ 10432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	Multon	Heshmat	Ward-Platt
-	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
Sakr	Dajani	Pepsi	Azzam
-	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		♠ 109875
♥ QJ65		♥ A107
♦ K72		♦ Q1065
♣ K85		♣ 10
♠ Q42		♠ AK
♥ 983		♥ K42
♦ J984		♦ A3
♣ AJ6		♣ Q97432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	Multon	Heshmat	Ward-Platt
-	-	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
Sakr	Dajani	Pepsi	Azzam
-	-	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.

