

Arab Bridge League

ABL Online Mixed Teams

17- 31 January 2021



Bulletin 8

Thursday 28th January

Editor Ron Tacchi

Day One Of Semi-finals Completed

Two sessions of twelve boards were played today to get us halfway through the 48 board semi-final. In the first session the boards were relatively quiet and that was reflected in the scores, WASO overcame Sharjah Club 29-17 and in an even tighter match EGYJOR led Diamond 22-14. The second session seemed to provide more opportunities to score and one or two hands were quite tricky. WASO again proved too good for Sharjah Club and had a big win 72-21 giving them a lead 63. EGYJOR also won both sessions, the second 38-5 giving them a lead of 41.

Both trailing teams will need a bumper day tomorrow if they are to figure in Saturday and Sunday's final.



Arab Bridge League ABL online Mixed Teams Semi 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>29</u>	<u>72</u>			101.5	
	SHARJAH CLUB	0.0	<u>17</u>	<u>21</u>			38.0	

2	DIAMOND	0.5	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u>			19.5	
	EGYJOR	0.0	<u>22</u>	<u>38</u>			60.0	

CTD : Waleed El Menyawi

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

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

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 be 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

Semi-final 1

Sharjah Club

As Sharjah Club had not featured much before I decided that they should have the benefit of my critical eye in their match against WASO.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ AJ2											
♥ KQ85											
♦ K62											
♣ 1073											
♠ 109	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q64
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A97	♥ 6										
♦ QJ1054	♦ 983										
♣ AQ8		♣ KJ9654									
	♠ K8753										
	♥ J10432										
	♦ A7										
	♣ 2										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Qasim	Hitti	Sumar
-	1♣	Pass	2♠*

All Pass

2♠ weak 55 majors

I do not know how weak the 2♠ bid maybe but North has a monstrous fit for both majors and you will all know what I am going to say now, 'that ninth heart is worth an extra king'. Also playing in hearts has the added attraction of the lead coming up to the strong hand. Did perchance North think the 2♠ bid only showed spades? If I had been in the North seat at teams the Four Hearts card would have been on the table in a fraction of a second. Why is 4♥ better than 4♠, the main reason is that it always makes whereas 4♠ has the risk, and on this hand a very real risk, of there being a heart ruff available. It was not found on this table so declarer, probably somewhat dispondently, collected ten tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Khandelwal H El Ahmdy	Khandelwal R	El Araby	
-	1♣	Pass	1♠
2♦	Double*	3♦	4♠

All Pass

Dble support double

In this room South either did not have such a weapon or believed it better to bid his suit, I know the spade suit is stronger than the hearts suit but bidding 1♠ risks losing the heart suit. South would have been very annoyed had the defence found their heart ruff to take the contract down. It was unlikely after the auction and declarer got the predictable diamond lead and soon wrapped up ten tricks and seven IMPs to WASO.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A8753											
♥ K108											
♦ AK52											
♣ 10											
♠ 62	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ KQ9
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ 653	♥ 97										
♦ QJ643	♦ 98										
♣ Q32		♣ AJ9874									
	♠ J104										
	♥ AQJ42										
	♦ 107										
	♣ K65										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Qasim	Hitti	Sumar
-	-	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	2♣	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

When North opened South was not going to stay out of game and settled in spades when the fit was found. East led a heart which was won in hand and declarer simply played ace of spades and another, East perforce winning. East cashed the ♣A and exited with a diamond. Declarer now played another spade and he had the rest of the tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Khandelwal H	EL Ahmdy	Khandelwal R	El Araby
-	-	2♣*	Pass
2NT*	Double	3♣	3♥
Pass	4♥	5♣	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	
2♣	Precision style 10-16		





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I assume the puppet to 3♣ showed some clubs otherwise East's sacrifice looks adventuresome. The defence took their five top tricks and then waited for their trump trick – four down and five IMPs to WASO.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ K 10 7 2 ♥ K Q 3 2 ♦ 9 ♣ A 7 5 3		♠ Q 8 5 4 3 ♥ 10 6 4 ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ Q 6	♠ A 6 ♥ A J 8 5 ♦ Q J 10 7 ♣ 9 8 4
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hachem</i>	<i>Qasim</i>	<i>Hitti</i>	<i>Sumar</i>
-	-	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

East commenced hostilities with a small spade taken in dummy with the ace. Declarer played a small diamond and West leapt up with the ♦K, this pinpointed the ace, it might have been better to win with the ace as declarer cannot now be certain as to the position of the king. West returned the ♣J which North allowed to hold. He took the club continuation with the ace and played back another which East inexplicably ruffed. A spade went round to the king and declarer played his last club which he ruffed in dummy. On the lead of a diamond West played his honour and declarer ruffed and claimed the rest of the tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khandelwal H</i>	<i>EL Ahmdy</i>	<i>Khandelwal R</i>	<i>El Araby</i>
-	-	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

With the North hand you are always going to 4♥ and you are never going to slam so why risk the possibility of a sudden mistake in interpretation

of the bid or divulging more information to the defence, a seemingly pointless 2NT bid. Declarer received a trump lead taken in dummy with the jack. A small diamond from dummy was taken by West's ace. The ♣J was returned and allowed to hold and the continuation was taken by the ace. Declarer now ducked a club in to West's hand. The return was the ♠9 which ran round to dummy's ace. Another spade to the ace and declarer tried to ruff a spade in dummy but was overruffed by West. He now led the ♣K on which East discarded a diamond while dummy ruffed low. A diamond from dummy was ducked by West and ruffed low and overruffed by East who now exited with a trump and declarer still had a spade to lose – three down. Eleven IMPs to Sharjah Club.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 8 7 ♥ K 9 6 4 3 ♦ 10 2 ♣ Q J 8 2		♠ K Q 3 2 ♥ Q 8 ♦ K Q 9 6 ♣ 7 4 3	♠ 10 9 4 ♥ 10 5 ♦ A J 7 5 4 ♣ K 10 9
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hachem</i>	<i>Qasim</i>	<i>Hitti</i>	<i>Sumar</i>
-	-	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

To make the contract you firstly need to avoid a club lead secondly you need either the diamond ace onside or to divine the position of the ♥K. I do not know if declarer's logic was the same as mine but if South does have the ace of diamonds then it is slightly more probable that North holds the ♥K. So playing a small heart towards the queen only loses when South holds both the ♥K and ♦A, 24% - not 25% chance of failure. At this table declarer won the spade lead in dummy and immediately led a small heart whereupon North took his king and switched to clubs, but too late as after drawing trumps declarer could discard two clubs on the hearts.





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Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khandelwal H El Ahmdy Khandelwal R El Araby</i>			
-	-	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Declarer in this room won the trump lead in hand and advanced the ♥Q which lost to the ♥K and although one club could be discarded when the diamond ace failed to be well placed declarer was a trick short. There is no clear cut reason for either line but as I suggest I think that there is a slight mathematical reasoning to play for two vital cards to be in opposite hands. Twelve IMPs to WASO.

The boards were not exhilarating and did not provide many opportunities for swings and at the end of the match WASO had beaten Sharjah Club 29-17.





ABL Online Mixed Teams



EGYJOR

Semi-final 2

Diamond

In a quiet first session match EGYJOR had eked out a slender lead of eight points over Diamond, not that important with 36 boards still to play.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ AKQJ7		♠ 953									
♥ 7		♥ KQ86432									
♦ K6543		♦ Q108									
♣ 72		♣ —									
♠ 10862	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 4
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ —	♥ AJ1095										
♦ A97	♦ J2										
♣ KQ10643		♣ AJ985									

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Amer	Azzam	Nayer	Dajani
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

This is a nightmare hand to play and as much of a nightmare to analyse. I know the contract can always be made but I am not sure that a mere human can find the correct line against all defences. I can report what happened at the table but I am confident that if I was declarer I would probably go down. West led a high club honour which declarer ducked. West now continued with another high honour which gives declarer the game. He won, cashed the ♣J and now had the ♣98 in his hand and so led one to West's ♣10 and now had nine tricks when the spades broke 4-3.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	Hammam	Heshmat	Sallam
3♣	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Unsurprisingly the lead was the same but declarer took the trick immediately and then played five rounds of spades, discarding three hearts and a

club – I suspect throwing two each would be better. When he led a small diamond from dummy East played low and declarer's jack forced West's ace. Obviously West had to exit with a diamond to dummy's king. Now declarer has a choice of playing West for 4126 distribution or 4036. If the former he cashed the ace of hearts and exits with a club for West to give him the ninth trick, if the latter then he must exit with a diamond, take the enforced heart return and exit with a club for the same endplay against West. The latter is probably more likely than the former but unfortunately the cards had assumed the less likely distribution so declarer failed by one trick. Twelve IMPs to EGYJOR.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ —		♠ AQJ952									
♥ Q9642		♥ —									
♦ A8		♦ K1043									
♣ KQJ1094		♣ 865									
♠ 10743	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K86
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A5	♥ KJ10873										
♦ QJ972	♦ 65										
♣ 73		♣ A2									

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Amer	Azzam	Nayer	Dajani
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♣	2♠	Pass
3♠	6♥	All Pass	

A bold bid by North – who needs science – if you used it you would probably highlight the winning lead. As we all can see the contract fails on a diamond lead but who would have found it? I think there are slight, and only very slight, indications that a diamond lead maybe the answer. The important thing to note is you have the ace of trumps and therefore a lot of control. If you have a spade trick it is unlikely to be a slow trick, either partner's ace will stand up or it will not. If leading a diamond





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is not correct you will have a second chance of a spade when you take your ace of hearts. It is a little tenuous but I suspect the actual spade lead was automatic and gave declarer the slam.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	Hammam	Heshmat	Sallam
-	-	-	2♥*
Pass	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	All Pass	
2♥	8-10		

If your system says 2♥ is 8-10 why bid it with an eleven count? Had the hand been opened 1♥ there could have been the prospect of meaningful exchange of information but poor old North knows when he bids 4♥ the next bid will be 4♠ and that he will go on to 5♥. Had West led a diamond South could have congratulated herself by making sure they had stopped short of slam. The lack of diamond leads meant thirteen IMPs to EGYJOR.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ KQ1072		♠ 43
♥ -		♥ 85
♦ J87632		♦ AQ104
♣ 43		♣ Q9752
	♠ J98	
	♥ AKQJ42	
	♦ K9	
	♣ K10	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Amer	Azzam	Nayer	Dajani
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♥	4♦	Pass	4♥
5♦	Double	All Pass	

There are light openings, very light openings and paper thin openings, I will leave the reader to decide on the third in hand bid here. It paid handsome dividends here as the sacrifice was very profitable as the contract was only two light and Four Hearts is impregnable.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	Hammam	Heshmat	Sallam
Pass	1♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Another light opening but this time the dividends were negative. I can see why South was so excited but perhaps a more measured approach might have managed to apply the brakes in time. After the lead of the ♦A declarer could have got out for one down but played for West to have the ♣Q and either an unlikely squeeze or a defensive slip up but when the ♣Q was with East he finished three down. Ten IMPs to EGYJOR.

At the end of the match EGYJOR had beaten Diamond 38-5 making the total after two of the four sessions 60-19 in favour of EGYJOR. With 24 boards to go there is time for a comeback and EGYJOR must not be complacent.

As is often the way had I stuck with the first match I watched in session one I would have seen fireworks as WASO beat Sharjah Club 72-21 which combines with the first session score gives them a lead of 63.

