

# Arab Bridge League

ABL Online Mixed Teams

17- 31 January 2021



Bulletin 9

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January

Editor Ron Tacchi

## And The Finalists Are?

The final two sessions of the semi-finals were played today. WASO, who had an overnight lead of 63 over Sharjah Club, took the first session 43-32, extending their lead to 74. In the final session Sharjah Club came back with a win but unfortunately it was too little too late so WASO progress to the final. In the other semi-final EGYJOR enjoyed a lead of 41 over Diamond. But in the first session Diamond lost another 30 points and graciously conceded, so our other finalist is EGYJOR. The final takes place over two days, Saturday and Sunday, they get tomorrow off for good behaviour. The play-off will be just two sessions on the Saturday. The timings are as for the semi-finals.

Congratulations to both teams for winning through a gruelling eight days of competition.



## 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>	<u>43</u>	<u>24</u>	168.5	
	SHARJAH CLUB	0.0	<u>17</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>34</u>	104.0	
2	DIAMOND	0.5	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<del>X</del>	27.5	
	EGYJOR	0.0	<u>22</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>38</u>	<del>X</del>	98.0	

All information can be found on the website:

[www.bridgewebs.com/ablonline/](http://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



EGYJOR

## Semi-final 3

Diamond

Before I commence I must apologise in advance if my deliberations contain errors which are more egregious than normal. There is a simple reason: at lunchtime I was met by some friends who arrived with bottles that 'pop' when you open them on the occasion of my birthday. It would have been churlish to refuse a drink with comrades.

The closer of the two matches was EGYJOR against Diamond so I chose that match to kibitz. EGYJOR started out the day with a lead of 41. It would be up to Diamond to score heavily and early to put some pressure on their opponents.

### Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ J98643		
♥ 972		
♦ J108		
♣ 2		
♠ K72		♠ 105
♥ KQJ83		♥ A106
♦ K		♦ Q543
♣ K987		♣ QJ64
		♠ AQ
		♥ 54
		♦ A9762
		♣ A1053

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Saad	Azzam	El-Selehdar	Dajani
-	Pass	Pass	1♦
Double	2♠	3♣	All Pass

The problem with doubling with West's hand is that you can miss a 5-3 heart fit while ending up playing in a Moysian spade fit. Experience has taught me that an overcall with a five-card major generally works out better. Three Clubs was never in trouble and came home with an overtrick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	Nayer	Heshmat	Amer
-	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	2♠	3♥	3♠
4♥	All Pass		

When West elected to overcall in hearts life was much easier for her partner and was able to express his values with a simple raise. In theory 3♠ can be

defeated but that may not be the actual outcome. West went on to game. If North/South can find their club ruffs then the contract can fail by three tricks. The defence started well when North led his singleton club. South won with the ace and West dropped the ♣9. South did not read the lead as a singleton and returned a small diamond. Declarer was home free now and brought home the game contract – seven IMPs to EGYJOR.

### Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 9		
♥ A52		
♦ 1085		
♣ AQ10962		
♠ AJ7432		♠ 105
♥ KJ10963		♥ 874
♦ -		♦ AQ43
♣ 5		♣ KJ84
		♠ KQ86
		♥ Q
		♦ KJ9762
		♣ 73

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Saad	Azzam	El-Selehdar	Dajani
-	-	Pass	1♦
2♦*	3♣	3♥	Pass
Pass	4♣	Double	All Pass

I was mildly surprised that West did not raise to game after East freely bid 3♥. As it happens it was a good idea as 4♥ goes down because the spades break 4-1. North no doubt felt aggrieved that the clubs split so badly but West has already advertised at least 5-5 in the majors so cannot be expected to have length in clubs. The defence took their two aces, a diamond ruff and two trumps tricks for two off vulnerable doubled. Eight IMPs to Diamond.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	Nayer	Heshmat	Amer
-	-	Pass	1♦
2♦*	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♥	All Pass		
2♦	majors		





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Suffice it to say that declarer brought home the contract, both offence and defence seemed bent on being kind to the other but there were enough tricks for the contract to succeed and eight IMPs for Diamond.

### Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 8		♠ J10976
♥ 1086		♥ 2
♦ 8652		♦ J93
♣ A8432		♣ Q1096
		♠ AQ54
		♥ K543
		♦ A104
		♣ 75

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Saad	Azzam	El-Selehdar	Dajani
-	-	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Double	6NT	All Pass	

When West helpfully told North the position and suit of the missing ace it made his decision on the final bid that much easier and after the predictable club lead declarer could claim twelve tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	Nayer	Heshmat	Amer
-	-	2♦	Pass
2♥	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

North had a much harder time of it. Reading Mark Horton's 'Mysterious Multi' most defences suggest that 2NT shows 15-18, so South was loathe to go on past game with a maximum 31 count. Maybe if North had doubled and then bid no-trumps could that have shown a stronger hand than an immediate 2NT? I must confess I do not know. I have never even discussed this situation with my partner. So East's pre-empt netted eleven IMPs for EGYJOR. What would have happened to 2♠X? It can be held to three tricks and 1400!!!

### Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ K10872		♠ AJ3
♥ KQJ75		♥ A9
♦ 63		♦ A852
♣ 10		♣ J964
♠ Q654		♠ 9
♥ 3		♥ 108642
♦ QJ109		♦ K74
♣ AKQ8		♣ 7532

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Saad	Azzam	El-Selehdar	Dajani
-	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	2♥	Double	4♥
Double	All Pass		

With North having bid hearts 4♥ was a bit of a phantom sacrifice as if the opposition play in 3NT a heart lead defeats it and 4♠ fails and it does not sound as though they are likely to reach 5♣. Declarer lost four aces and so was one off.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ghazala	Nayer	Heshmat	Amer
-	1♠	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

As I said above a heart lead beats the contract but South having heard partner's opening bid duly led the suit, now declarer was able to establish ten tricks with the losing diamond finesse but when North failed to find the 'obvious' unblocking of the ♥KQJ in the endgame he was thrown in to lead away from his ♠K - a nice little play for an extra overtrick and virtue was rewarded as it was worth an extra IMP to make eleven IMPs to EGYJOR.

At the end of the session EGYJOR had run out winners 38-8, increasing their lead over Diamond to 71 and they graciously conceded the tie to EGYJOR.





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WASO

## Semi-final 4

Sharjah Club

In the first session WASO had increased their lead by eleven over Sharjah Club to make it 74. A major miracle would be required to pull that lead back in only twelve boards.

### Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ K4  
 ♥ AKQJ10  
 ♦ J864  
 ♣ 73

♠ 105  
 ♥ 742  
 ♦ AKQ7  
 ♣ KQJ6

♠ Q62  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ 953  
 ♣ 1098542

♠ AJ9873  
 ♥ 9853  
 ♦ 102  
 ♣ A

N  
 W E  
 S

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Qasim	Hitti	Sumar
-	-	Pass	2♠
Double	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

North was a little timid and with the team needing big swings a shot at game, perhaps, should have been attempted.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hindi	Tanboli	Mekky	Akl
-	-	Pass	2♠
Double	2NT*	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

If South's 3♥ bid showed a genuine heart suit then I would have thought 4♥ might be a better contract. The defence started with ♦A and then switched to the ♣K allowing declarer to draw the trumps with a successful finesse and claim the rest of the tricks. Eleven IMPs to WASO

### Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 10543  
 ♥ K10  
 ♦ A1084  
 ♣ KQ5

♠ K986  
 ♥ 83  
 ♦ K97  
 ♣ 9632

♠ A72  
 ♥ 7652  
 ♦ J32  
 ♣ 1084

N  
 W E  
 S

♠ QJ  
 ♥ AQJ94  
 ♦ Q65  
 ♣ AJ7

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Qasim	Hitti	Sumar
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
2♣	checkback		

Declarer was not hard pressed to collect eleven tricks for a seemingly flat hand.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hindi	Tanboli	Mekky	Akl
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

I am confident that South meant 4NT to be quantitative, North was not of that opinion and steadfastly replied to a Blackwood request, I also assume that North took this to show a maximum and an ace. Declarer was without resource and just took eleven tricks conceding one off. Thirteen IMPs to Sharjah Club.





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## Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 6		♠ AK32									
♥ KQ1086		♥ 974									
♦ 765		♦ AK102									
♣ AJ87		♣ Q2									
♠ Q1097	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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		♠ J854
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A532	♥ J										
♦ Q8	♦ J943										
♣ K105	♣ 9643										

### Open Room

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

When South tried the lead of a diamond it gave declarer a trick and a tempo when dummy's ♦8 held the trick. There were a myriad ways of making the contract and as long as declarer minded his work he was home. No silly slip-ups and ten tricks were racked up.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hindi	Tanboli	Mekky	Akl
-	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

With the lead of the ♥J declarer was on the back foot. Double dummy it is possible to make the contract but you need to be able to see all the cards to perform this feat and so the different lead had gained WASO ten IMPs

## Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ AQ964		♠ 3									
♥ A		♥ J73									
♦ KQ8		♦ 1073									
♣ AKQ10		♣ 987543									
♠ 752	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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		♠ KJ108
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ Q98654	♥ K102										
♦ 95	♦ AJ642										
♣ 62	♣ J										

Nothing to report on this hand but it is always pleasing to watch both teams bid a grand slam. With only 16 tricks available neither declarer took long to claim their contract.

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Qasim	Hitti	Sumar
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♥	Pass	7♠

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hindi	Tanboli	Mekky	Akl
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♥	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

## Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ Q98762		♠ K53									
♥ KJ76		♥ A109									
♦ QJ		♦ 10984									
♣ 2		♣ J106									
♠ AJ	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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		♠ 104
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ Q43	♥ 852										
♦ AK765	♦ 32										
♣ A54	♣ KQ9873										

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hachem	Qasim	Hitti	Sumar
-	-	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Declarer received the lead of the ♠10 and won in dummy with the ace and followed up with the ♦A, guess which card declarer played from dummy – the ♦4 blocking the suit, now it probably does not matter but on some hands it will matter, just noticing little things like that will occasionally net you big swings and stop you losing big swings. Declarer now had to decide whether to play 'Restricted Choice' or play for the drop. The problem with





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taking the Restricted Choice option is that you have to cross to dummy with the ♥A and then you are beginning to lose control. This what happened to declarer. A small heart to the ace was followed by a losing diamond finesse. Now the ♠Q sealed declarer's fate as there was now no way to develop a ninth trick.

The defence was not optimal but it is very difficult to actually take it down four but was 4♠ going to make?

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hindi</i>	<i>Tanboli</i>	<i>Mekky</i>	<i>Akl</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South was not going to lead partner's suit when the ♣KQ to six were in the hand which contained no entry. Declarer immediately took the ace, giving him a second stopper in the suit. The ♦A was next on which North deposited the ♦Q and dummy the ♦8. Declarer did not have to worry so much about restricted choice as he could always establish a club trick for the ninth, while holding up the ♠K for one round to exhaust South of all his spades. To cut a long story short the ♦K was played and another diamond unblocked in hand. Eventually he played the endgame well to garner an extra over-trick and thirteen IMPs to Sharjah Club.

### Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	♠ KJ109764										
	♥ –										
	♦ 985										
	♣ Q102										
♠ 3	<table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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		♠ Q82
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ Q10987		♥ J42									
♦ AKQ62		♦ 74									
♣ J3		♣ K9874									
	♠ A5										
	♥ AK653										
	♦ J103										
	♣ A65										

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hindi</i>	<i>Tanboli</i>	<i>Mekky</i>	<i>Akl</i>
1♥	2♠	3♥	Double
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

At this table North was left to play in 4♠. East led a diamond and West took three rounds before switching to the jack of clubs. What do you rate North's chances to be? I estimated 75% Why? Because you can get a perfect count on the hand. You now know that West has five hearts and also five diamonds and that, Watson, leaves three black cards in his hand. So when it goes ♣J, ♣Q, ♣K and ♣A you cash the two top hearts and discard two clubs and now you lead a club from dummy and when West follows you know he has two of them and therefore one spade so you now lead the ♠J and hope that West does not have the singleton queen – that is why the contract is 75%. I could see declarer gradually working out the distribution and that is exactly how he played – Well done! But there is another question. Could the contract have been defeated? The answer is a maybe. At trick four West must lead a fourth round of diamonds if declarer decides to ruff in dummy East can insert the ♠8 promoting the queen, so declarer must ruff in hand with a card higher than the eight. Had East's spades been Q9x rather than Q8x then the fourth round of diamonds definitely promotes a trump.

At the end of the session Sharjah Club had won 34-24, not enough to prevent WASO progressing to the final but it was good that Sharjah Club managed to win at least one session.

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hachem</i>	<i>Qasim</i>	<i>Hitti</i>	<i>Sumar</i>
1♥	2♠	Pass	4♠
5♦	Pass	5♥	Double
All Pass			

