

Arab Bridge League

ABL Online Mixed Teams

17- 31 January 2021



Bulletin 5

Sunday 25th January

Editor Ron Tacchi

One To Go In The Round Robin

On the penultimate day, in Group A **WASO**, **Al-Yassamen** and **NINE** were the winners, all with respectable scores. EGYJOR slipped from first position in the standings overtaken by WASO and Nine. In Group B it was **Diamond** and **Cedars 2** who were successful, again with decent scores. while Friends squeaked a victory. Yet again Queens and Diamonds flipped first and second position in the table

Tomorrow is the final session of the Round Robin. In Group A no one is certain for the knock-out, even the team in first place is mathematically capable of not qualifying. In Group B the first three are certain but the fourth and final spot can only be taken by one of the next two.

Results Round Robin 4 Group A

Team	Team	IMPs	VPs	VPs
EGYJOR	WASO	25-54	3.42	16.58
Sharjah Club	Al-Yassamen	28-33	8.52	11.48
NINE	LIONS	52-31	15.19	4.81

Group A	Al Yass	EGY-JOR	Lions	Nine	Shar-jah	WASO	Rk	VPs
WASO	15.19	16.58	9.39	12.29			1	53.45
Nine	7.97		15.19		15.56	7.71	2	46.43
EGYJOR	10		17.31		14.18	3.42	3	44.91
Al-Yassamen		10		12.03	11.48	4.81	4	38.32
Sharjah Club	8.52	5.82	15.38	4.44			5	34.16
Lions		2.69		4.81	4.62	10.61	6	22.73

Results Round Robin 4 Group B

Team	Team	IMPs	VPs	VPs
FRIENDS	PEPSI	58-55	10.91	9.09
QUEENS	DIAMOND	26-41	6.03	13.97
TRUMPS	CEDARS 2	19-61	1.67	18.33

Group B	Cedars 2	Dia- mond	Fri- ends	Pepsi	Queen	Trump	Rk	VPs
Diamond			14.6	15.56	13.97	17.97	1	62.1
Queens	12.29	6.03	19.34			18.66	2	56.32
Cedars 2			15.19	6.96	7.71	18.33	3	48.19
Pepsi	13.04	4.44	9.09			10.31	4	36.88
Friends	4.81	5.4		10.91	0.66		5	21.78
TRUMPS	1.67	2.03		9.69	1.34		6	14.73

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

O.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.

Raad Etoom >>> +962 7 7278 7983

Tarek Abdelrahman >>> +20 100 118 5050

Ibrahim Al Ahdal >>> +966 50 514 5145

More information and videos about the required broadcasting angle will 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.

Group A

Day Date	RR - Match 5 / 5				
	GMT Time : 16:00				
Monday 25.01.21	1	WASO	X	2	Sharjah Club
	3	EGYJOR	X	6	Nine
	4	Al-Yassamen	X	5	Lions

Group B

Day Date	RR - Match 5 / 5				
	GMT Time : 16:00				
Monday 25.01.21	1	Pepsi	X	2	Queens
	3	Friends	X	6	TRUMPS
	4	Diamond	X	5	CEDARS 2





ABL Online Mixed Teams



Friends

Round Robin 4

Pepsi

Today we will take a look at a match of two teams who that as yet have not graced these pages. Pepsi and Friends are not at the top of their standings and both need to win to have a good chance of reaching the knock-out phase.

Over the first four boards Friends scored nineteen IMPs to Pepsi's one on failing part-scores.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ A2	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W S E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W S E	S	♠ 94
N					
W S E					
S					
♥ KJ74	♥ Q109				
♦ A75	♦ 108632				
♣ K963	♣ Q85				

♠ 85	♠ KQJ10763
♥ 8632	♥ A5
♦ K94	♦ QJ
♣ A1072	♣ J4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sakr</i>	<i>Mohsen</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Hamdy</i>
-	Pass	Pass	4♠
Double	All Pass		

South bid what he thought he might make and West produced a red card. What could East do other than hope partner would find a difficult defence to take the contract down. It started well with the lead of a heart which declarer won and then continued with a diamond. West correctly won and again correctly cashed the king of hearts but now fell from grace by leading a third round of hearts. The only defence was to switch to a club to set up a club trick, removing dummy's entry while the diamonds are blocked. Now declarer could ruff the heart, unblock the diamond and cross to dummy with a club and discard the losing club on the king of diamonds and then just concede a trick to the ace of trumps.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wahdan</i>	<i>Ward-Platt</i>	<i>Wahdan</i>	<i>Nikos</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1♠
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

South had a much lower opinion of his hand and subsided in a part-score where many tricks were made but it was a loss of twelve IMPs to Friends.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ AQ	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W S E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W S E	S	♠ K9875
N					
W S E					
S					
♥ Q1094	♥ AJ86				
♦ AJ8	♦ 1093				
♣ K642	♣ 9				

♠ 1043	♠ J62
♥ 732	♥ K5
♦ 76	♦ KQ542
♣ AQ1053	♣ J87

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sakr</i>	<i>Mohsen</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Hamdy</i>
-	-	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

A standard auction to a standard contract. North got off to the good lead of a diamond, South's queen taken by declarer's ace. It is not difficult to read North' lead as a doubleton. If the heart finesse is wrong then you might suffer a diamond ruff. What are your possible plays: firstly take the heart finesse, if it succeeds you are home, secondly cash the ace and queen of spades, cross to dummy with the ace of trumps and cash the ♠K hoping the spades are 3-3 and you can discard a diamond and your third option is to play ace and another trump hoping that North has only two of them. I rate the first option at 50%, the second at 36% and the fourth a little less than 50%. Quite correctly declarer took the first option and so unluckily failed by one trick.





ABL Online Mixed Teams



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wahdan	Ward-Platt	Wahdan	Nikos
-	-	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

North, being a disciple of Brother Hubert led a trump and now declarer was home, losing a heart, a diamond and a trump. Twelve IMPs to Friends.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ 42											
♥ Q53											
♦ AJ95											
♣ AJ105											
♠ Q7	<table border="1" style="background-color: #c8e6c9; 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		♠ 10963
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ 1086	♥ K4										
♦ 1076	♦ KQ43										
♣ KQ983	♣ 642										
♠ AKJ85											
♥ AJ972											
♦ 82											
♣ 7											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sakr	Mohsen	Pepsi	Hamdy
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The defence started with a small diamond to West's ♦10 taken by declarer's ♦J. The ♥Q was covered by the king and ace and two more rounds ensued establishing the suit and leaving West on lead. The diamond return was ducked to East's queen and a club came back to the queen and declarer's ace. There is in the competition a team called 'Nine' I do not know the requirements for being a member of this team but I suspect the ability to count to nine is an ability considered important, unfortunately I do not think this declarer would be a member of that team as at this point he has four tricks, he also has available to him the ace of diamonds and in dummy two master hearts and the ♠AK and my simple arithmetic says this comes to nine and in fact it comes to ten because the ♠Q is doubleton. So why is declarer persona non grata, maybe believing there overtricks to be had he took the spade finesse and was soon disabused as West cashed the ♣K and exited with a spade whereupon

the final trick had to be conceded to East while he had three master cards in his hand and suffered the ignominy of going down in a solid one.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wahdan	Ward-Platt	Wahdan	Nikos
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East, being of a kind and gentle disposition did not wish a similar fate to befall this declarer and so started with the ♥K which gave declarer very little scope to score less than ten tricks. Twelve IMPs back to Pepsi.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ KQ8											
♥ AK76											
♦ Q974											
♣ 42											
♠ 32	<table border="1" style="background-color: #c8e6c9; 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		♠ 94
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ Q2	♥ J8										
♦ AKJ10652	♦ 83										
♣ 103	♣ AKQJ765										
♠ AJ10765											
♥ 109543											
♦ -											
♣ 98											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sakr	Mohsen	Pepsi	Hamdy
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The old expression '6-5 come alive' was certainly true here and South showed one of his suits. Partner had not come to play in part-scores and raised to game. When the hearts broke 2-2 and the defence started with a diamond declarer had twelve tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wahdan	Ward-Platt	Wahdan	Nikos
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

It is amazing how often a response of 3NT to an opening pre-empt causes confusion in the enemy ranks. To South it sounded perfectly genuine and that an intervention might be very risky. I was





ABL Online Mixed Teams



busy calculating that $480 - 350 = 130 = 4$ IMPs a nice gain for a cheeky bid, but wait, watch what happened. South led the $\spadesuit J$ which held the trick and after a long thought continued with the $\heartsuit 10$, won by North with the $\heartsuit K$ and now more thought ensued and I could North thinking East had the $\spadesuit A$ and the $\heartsuit J$ and so switched to a club. Suddenly declarer now had nine tricks when a moment before the defence had eleven. I must confess to a wry smile traversing my features. Thirteen IMPs to Friends.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

\spadesuit KJ74		\spadesuit AQ1052									
\heartsuit Q2		\heartsuit 106									
\diamondsuit 8754		\diamondsuit AQ6									
\clubsuit J64		\clubsuit AK3									
\spadesuit 96	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><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		\spadesuit 83
	N										
W		E									
	S										
\heartsuit 7543		\heartsuit AKJ98									
\diamondsuit J9		\diamondsuit K1032									
\clubsuit 109852		\clubsuit Q7									

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sakr</i>	<i>Mohsen</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Hamdy</i>
Pass	Pass	1 \spadesuit	2 \heartsuit
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
2 \spadesuit	Pass	Pass	3 \diamondsuit
Pass	Pass	Double	All Pass

What is the purpose of South's 3 \diamondsuit bid? Do you honestly think you are going to make the contract? You know partner does not have heart support or much at all and if he does have values they are likely to be in spades so your side may well have defence to 2 \spadesuit . One down doubled vulnerable is a bad result, three down is a disaster, and that was when partner turned up with four trumps and a seven count, you could not have asked for much more than that.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wahdan</i>	<i>Ward-Platt</i>	<i>Wahdan</i>	<i>Nikos</i>
Pass	Pass	2NT	All Pass

After South cashed five heart tricks South had to come to a diamond trick or North a spade trick and

so declarer was one down. Thirteen IMPs back to Pepsi.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

\spadesuit AKQ8754		\spadesuit J3									
\heartsuit 10		\heartsuit J4									
\diamondsuit A84		\diamondsuit K953									
\clubsuit K8		\clubsuit AJ1042									
\spadesuit 1092	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><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		\spadesuit 6
	N										
W		E									
	S										
\heartsuit AK8		\heartsuit Q976532									
\diamondsuit QJ1072		\diamondsuit 6									
\clubsuit 73		\clubsuit Q965									

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sakr</i>	<i>Mohsen</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Hamdy</i>
-	-	-	2 \diamondsuit *
Pass	2NT	Pass	3 \heartsuit
Pass	4 \spadesuit	Pass	5 \heartsuit
All Pass			

The dreaded multi – the cause of more misunderstandings than you can shake a stick at. As a fervent non-player of the 2 \diamondsuit multi I am not overly imbued with the subtleties of the responses but I do know that 2NT is forcing and asking for information, I also know that a response of 4 \spadesuit is to play. What questions do you want answered before you bid 4 \spadesuit , as far as I know you cannot say 'do you have three spades, an ace and a singleton diamond?' I am not suggesting in any way that South's 5 \heartsuit bid is correct or incorrect but had North just bid 4 \spadesuit South would have had to suffer in silence the embarrassment of putting that hand down as dummy. 5 \heartsuit finished three off.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wahdan</i>	<i>Ward-Platt</i>	<i>Wahdan</i>	<i>Nikos</i>
-	-	-	2 \heartsuit
Pass	4 \spadesuit	All Pass	

Please read the previous paragraph. When East led the ace of clubs and continued the suit declarer got rid of one of her diamond losers by ruffing it in dummy. Fourteen IMPs to Pepsi.

At this point every hand had been a swing, not one flat board, would I be watching a sixteen board





ABL Online Mixed Teams



set with no flat boards – it looked likely as on the last board one contract was 4♠ and in the other room 3NT and on best play both contracts would make exactly thus giving a one IMP swing but the defence to 3NT let through an overtrick and so I was thwarted on the last deal.

In a match where both teams had been generous to the other, Friends had come out just ahead 58-55, or over seven IMPs a board. If either team are to reach the knock-out phase and do well in that they are going to have to cut out the unforced errors.

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)

