

**10<sup>th</sup> Arab Nations Championship**

**13-17 Nov. 2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> Jeddah International Bridge Festival**

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Editor: **Brian Senior**

Layout Editor: **Francesca Canali**

Photographer: **Ms. Lenda Qari**

# Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> Jeddah International Bridge Festival



Welcome to all those newly arrived to take part in the 1<sup>st</sup> Jeddah International Bridge Festival.

By the time you can read this, you will have already taken part in the first of three sessions of Championship Pairs. Good luck to all.

Friday saw the conclusion of the round robin stage of the Open and Women's Teams in the Pan-Arab Championships. **Egypt** dominated the Open qualifiers and will face **Jordan** in the semi-final, while second-placed **Morocco** face our hosts, **Saudi Arabia**. In the Women, **Tunisia** topped the qualifying rankings and will face **Palestine** in the semi-final, while **UAE** and **Egypt** will face off in the other match.

**Ahmed Nayer** of the Egyptian Open team topped the Butler rankings, followed by three of his teammates. Top in the Women's event was **Jalila Ghodbahn** of Tunisia, who was fifth overall.

## RANKING AFTER QUALIFICATION

### OPEN TEAMS


1.	Egypt	211.53
2.	Morocco	165.94
3.	Jordan	164.75
4.	Saudi Arabia	140.38
5.	UAE	118.59
6.	Kuwait	116.31

### WOMEN TEAMS

1.	Tunisia	171.52
2.	UAE	151.58
3.	Palestine	147.49
4.	Egypt	146.33
5.	Morocco	140.65
6.	Saudi Arabia	129.27
7.	Jordan	121.16

# YESTERDAY'S QUIZ - SOLUTION

. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	4♥	4♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Partner's overenthusiastic raise to slam has put us in a pretty poor contract. However, after the lead of the king of hearts, we have to find a layout which permits us to make our slam.

Superficially, we have to lose one trick in each black suit. However, things are not nearly so bad as they may at first appear. One possibility is that we could get lucky in the trump suit. We could find either

opponent with queen-jack doubleton or, if West plays an honour on the first round, we could play for that to be a singleton and take the double finesse against East's remaining H9x.

There is a much stronger play than this, however, and one which does not give up on the queen-jack doubleton possibility. Ruff the heart and cash the king and ace of spades. Ruff dummy's remaining heart then just start running diamonds. If the defensive spade winner is in the same hand as the king of clubs the defence will be powerless.

The key play was to take the second heart ruff. This did not give you an extra trump trick, but it means that if the defender ruffs a diamond at any stage he will be endplayed, forced to either lead away from the king of clubs or give a ruff and discard. Had you not taken the second heart ruff, he would have had a safe heart exit.

The best that the defender will be able to do is to discard on all six diamonds, trying to give you a guess. If he comes down to two clubs and the spade winner, you will throw him in with the spade to lead away from the king of clubs, If he keeps a heart, then you just cash the ace of clubs and drop the king. You may have to watch the discards carefully, but will usually be able to read the ending correctly.

## TODAY'S QUIZ

Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ J 10 5 ♥ K 8 6 ♦ A K J 8 ♣ J 6 2		♠ A K Q 8 6 4 3 ♥ A 5 4 2 ♦ 5 ♣ 3	
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West	North	East	South
3♣	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

West leads the ace of clubs, East following with the ten, and switches to the seven of hearts.


The answer  
will be published  
tomorrow...

# OPEN ROUND 13 – EGYPT V UAE

Friday morning's Open match between Egypt and UAE was of far greater importance to UAE, who lay fourth and were in a battle to make the knockout stages, than for Egypt, who were already assured of a place in the semi-finals.

The Egyptian N/S pair made 10 tricks in their spade partscore on this first deal but game could have been beaten had they bid it.


Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Eissa</i>	<i>Nayer</i>	<i>Adam Ali</i>	<i>Hady</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♦	Pass	3♦	3♠
All Pass			

Hady, for Egypt, opened 1♠ in third seat and, when Eissa's overcall was raised by Adam Ali, Hady repeated his spades and was left to play there. Eissa led a low diamond, so dummy's queen scored and Hady led a heart to the king and ace. Eissa found the club switch now, leading queen then four to Adam Ali's king. A third club would now have promoted a defensive spade trick to beat game, but that would not be enough to threaten 3♠, and Adam Ali returned a trump. Hady won the ace, played ace then ruffed his third diamond, and came to hand with the jack of hearts to cash the king of spades and, when the favourable trump position came to light, had 10 tricks for +170.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
<i>Eissa</i>	<i>Nayer</i>	<i>Adam Ali</i>	<i>Hady</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♦	Dble	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Adam Ali started with a negative double then showed club support as he had only three hearts. Holding only a doubleton club, Eissa tried spades next and that suited Adam Ali nicely. Nayer led the king of diamonds against 2♠, Hady allowing tis to hold after some thought. The suit-preference two of diamonds came next so Hady won the ace and returned a club. Nayer won the ace and played the queen of spades, which eissa ruffed low in dummy so Hady could over-ruff cheaply and return a club, Eissa won the ♣K, cashed a top spade, then crossed to dummy with a heart to run the jack of spades. That lost to the queen, so Eissa had made the minimum number of tricks available to him, but he had made his contract, which was what mattered; eight tricks for +110.



Hussein Adam Ali


Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Eissa</i>	<i>Nayer</i>	<i>Adam Ali</i>	<i>Hady</i>
-	-	-	2♥
3♣	3♥	All Pass	

Hady's 2♥ opener showed a weak hand with hearts and any other suit, and Nayer competed to 3♥ over Eissa's overcall. Eissa tried to cash the ace of clubs but Hady ruffed that and led a heart to dummy's ten. That scored so next he called for the jack of spades, and Adam Ali went up with the ace and returned a trump for the ten, queen and ace, A spade to the queen and king, spade ruff, and a diamond pitch on the king of clubs, were followed by a club ruff to hand. Hady could draw the outstanding trump and cash two spade tricks before conceding the last two tricks to the ace and queen of diamonds, so had 10 tricks once again for +170.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
<i>Eissa</i>	<i>Nayer</i>	<i>Adam Ali</i>	<i>Hady</i>
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Eissa opened 1♥ and rebid 3♥ on his powerful six-card suit. Adam Ali bid 3♠ followed by 4♥, clearly making the spade bid into an advance cuebid, the only way he could get the spade control into the auction

without going past game. Though Eissa did not have a fitting diamond honour, he did have powerful trumps and, crucially, the missing club control. That looks like enough to go on, but he was concerned that the ♦A might be missing and opted for caution.

The club lead went to the queen, king and ace, but the even heart break meant that declarer could draw trumps and ruff out the diamonds to provide the second discard required to come to all 13 tricks for +710.


Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Eissa</i>	<i>Nayer</i>	<i>Adam Ali</i>	<i>Hady</i>
-	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

A natural auction saw Nayer at the helm in 2NT, against which Adam Ali led the five of spades to the nine and jack. Nayer played ace of diamonds and eight of diamonds, thinking for a while before putting in the nine. That lost to the queen and Eissa returned the eight of heart to the nine and jack, When Adam Ali switched to a low club, Nayer played low from dummy, winning the queen with the ace, and led a spade to the king and ace. Eissa played a second heart and Adam Ali won two of those, but that was all for the defence; eight tricks, just made, and +120.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Eissa	Nayer	Adam Ali	Hady
–	–	Pass	1♣
1♥	Pass	Pass	3♣
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Seeing that he had the queen of clubs, which was very likely to allow the suit to be run, Nayer took a huge decision when he bid 3NT despite not having even the semblance of a heart stopper. Presumably Hady, who had seen his partner unable to bid over the 1♥ overcall, could have pulled to 4♣ had he had a less inspiring club suit. Adam Ali led a heart against 3NT, not that it mattered, and Nayer just claimed his nine top tricks for +400.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Eissa	Nayer	Adam Ali	Hady
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Eissa opened 1NT and played there on the lead of the two of clubs. He played dummy's ten, the jack forcing his ace, and led out ace and another diamond, Hady winning the queen and, seeing the danger of dummy's long diamonds, returned the seven of hearts in hope of taking out the late dummy entry before diamonds could be established. That worked perfectly, as Eissa played low from hand and won dummy's ace, then played a third diamond. Hady won the king and led the jack of hearts to the queen and king. Nayer cashed the king of clubs and ten of hearts then exited with a club. Eissa won the nine and had the thirteenth heart and ♠A to cash, but had to concede two spades at the end for down one and -100.

A better guess at trick one would have seen declarer put up dummy's ♣Q and been in the right hand to attack diamonds effectively, thereby coming to an overtrick.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Eissa	Nayer	Adam Ali	Hady
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

Eissa opened a multi and I don't like Adam Ali's 2NT enquiry at all. Game is so unlikely if partner's suit is hearts that it is surely better to respond 2♥, pass or correct.

As it happens, 2♥ played by East is likely to make, while 3♥ played by West was easily beaten.

Nayer led his singleton spade to the king and ace, and Hady continued with the ♠J. Nayer ruffed that and tried the king of diamonds. Eissa won the ace and led dummy's heart up, but Hady won the ace and gave his partner a second spade ruff. Nayer took his ruff and returned a diamond to declarer's queen. When the ♥Q failed to drop under the king, the contract was down a trick for -50.

The match resulted in a big win for Egypt, by 41-6 IMPs, converting to 19.11-0.89 VPs, as they continued to pull away at the top of the rankings. UAE, meanwhile, slipped to fifth and had two more matches in which to gain the points required to get back into the top four and the knockout stages.




# OPEN ROUND 14 – EGYPT V SAUDI ARABIA

There was a problem on the first board due to a failure to alert so that the Egyptian E/W pair were acting on different information from each other, so I will leave that deal out of my report.

Board 10 saw Mosaad, for Egypt, in a hopeless game.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
Nayer	Al Kattan	Mosaad	Massod
–	–	1♥	1♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	All Pass

For Egypt, Nayer's heart raise was pre-emptive, but the N/S bidding gave Mosaad reason to expect to be

able to take one or two spade ruffs in the dummy. A reasonable expectation but not today. Massod led the jack of spades, All Kattan winning the ace and continuing with the queen. Massod allowed that to hold the trick; no doubt he too didn't imagine that there was a third spade to be cashed. Al Kattan switched to a heart, declarer winning and drawing a second round. The jack of diamonds to the ace came next but there was nothing to be done. There was a spade to lose and, with the ace onside, one club, so the contract was down one for –100.

Three Spades would have made, possibly even 4♠ if declarer got the diamonds right, so 3♥-1 was just fine for E/W.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nayer	Al Kattan	Mosaad	Massod
–	–	–	2♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♦	Dble	4♠	All Pass


Massod opened a weak 2♦ and that ran round to Mosaad, who doubled. Caught with no ideal action open to him, Nayer opted for a cuebid, doubled by Al Kattan, and Mosaad closed proceedings with a jump to 4♠.

A diamond lead went to the two, ace and jack, and Al Kattan switched to the six of hearts, which Mosaad ducked to the queen. Massod reverted to diamonds, leading the queen to pin declarer's ten. Mosaad won the ♦K, drew trumps and led a heart to the ace before going back to dummy to ruff the third diamond. Now he exited with the third heart, hoping it would have to be won on his right. When it was won by Massod, on the left, he returned the eight of clubs and, with a shrug of the shoulders, Mosaad put in the jack and when it had 10 tricks for +420.



Ahmed Nayer

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ K 9 7 6 3 ♥ K J 7 6 ♦ K 5 ♣ Q 2		♠ A 2 ♥ Q 9 8 2 ♦ A Q ♣ A J 8 7 5	♠ 10 8 4 ♥ A ♦ J 10 9 6 4 3 ♣ K 9 6
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West	North	East	South
<i>Nayer</i>	<i>Al Kattan</i>	<i>Mosaad</i>	<i>Massod</i>
Pass	1♠	Dble	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Rdbl
3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Mosad doubled the opening bid then doubled again when the simple spade raise came back to him. Massod redoubled to show a good hand in context of his previous bid, and then competed to 3♠ over Nayer's 3♥.


Mosaad cashed the ace of clubs and, on sight of dummy, continued with a second club to declarer's queen. Al Kattan crossed to the ace of hearts, cashed the king of clubs for a diamond pitch, then led the four of spades and just covered Nayer's five.



Mohamed Heshmat

That forced the ace and Mosaad got out with his remaining spade to the jack and king. A heart was ruffed and the jack of diamonds led to the king and ace. A heart had gone away sometime from the East hand so there was only a spade to be lost from here; nine tricks for +140.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nayer</i>	<i>Al Kattan</i>	<i>Mosaad</i>	<i>Massod</i>
–	Pass	3♦	3♠
3NT	4♠	All Pass	

Mosaad opened 3♦, Massod overcalled 3♠, and Nayer tried 3NT, which made no impression on Al Kattan who raised to 4♠. Nayer cashed the ace of diamonds, Mosaad dropping the king, then switched to a heart. There was nothing much to the play, with Massod eventually making the normal play in clubs of taking the finesse, so he had 12 tricks for +680.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nayer</i>	<i>Al Kattan</i>	<i>Mosaad</i>	<i>Massod</i>
–	–	1♣	Pass
1NT	2♥	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	All Pass

With a near maximum for his 1NT response, Nayer wanted to compete the partscore without running the

risk that a double of 2♥ might be taken as being for penalty. Having already denied four spades, he tried 2♠ in case Mosaad had four of the suit. He did not and, though no doubt expecting that Nayer would have four clubs, opted for a natural 2NT due to the balanced nature of his hand and high heart card.

Al Kattan led the six of hearts. Now, was that more likely to be from AKxxx or from A/KJ10xx? Nayer would have made his contract in comfort had he opted for that latter and played low from dummy, but it seemed to him that the ace-king holding was the more likely so he called for the queen. That of course lost to the king and the defence cashed five heart tricks then Al Kattan switched to a spade to the king and ace. Nayer knocked out the club but there was also the ♠Q to be lost; down two for -100.

West	North	East	South
Nayer	Al Kattan	Mosaad	Massod
-	-	-	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

An artificial strong 2♣ set the ball rolling with a two-way Kokish sequence eventually showing 25-26 balanced. Mosaad transferred, found a big fit, and asked first for key-cards, the answer showing two or five without the trump queen, then for side-suit kings, the answer showing one. Six Spades was the logical conclusion and the winning club finesse meant that all 13 tricks were there for declarer; +1010.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

	♠ 7 6	
	♥ J 10 6 2	
	♦ J 7 3 2	
	♣ 9 6 5	
♠ AK82		♠ QJ1094
♥ A93		♥ K54
♦ AK		♦ 96
♣ AQJ4		♣ 1072
	♠ 53	
	♥ Q87	
	♦ Q10854	
	♣ K83	

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

	♠ A984	
	♥ J1075	
	♦ AQ9	
	♣ J9	
♠ 73		♠ 6
♥ AK4		♥ Q63
♦ 6543		♦ KJ10872
♣ K874		♣ A106
	♠ KQJ1052	
	♥ 982	
	♦ -	
	♣ Q532	

West	North	East	South
Nayer	Al Kattan	Mosaad	Massod
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Al Kattan's 1♦ opening served to silence Mosaad, who would have bid the suit himself over some other openings. The N/S auction looks entirely reasonable, given South's big spade holding, but it resulted in a hopeless contract being reached.

Nayer cashed ace then king of hearts but then couldn't read Mosaad's carding and switched to a diamond. That allowed Massod to get rid of his third heart losers, but there was no escaping the loss of two club tricks, so the contract was still down one for -50.

Egypt won the match by 21-2 IMPs, 16.23-3.77 VPs, and increased their lead at the top once again. Meanwhile, other results did Saudi Arabia no great harm and they held onto fourth place going into the final round.




Karim Nabil



# OPEN 15 - EGYPT v MOROCCO

The top two met in the final round of Open qualifying, with both already assured of a place in the semi-finals.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fatma</i>	<i>Miri</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Sbili</i>
–	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	


I would prefer to rebid 2♠ with the North hand. Not only might 5♦ be a better game occasionally, but sometimes, as here, there is a cold slam to be had if

N/S explore the hand properly. Don't forget that the 1NT response has a wider range for most pairs than would once have been the case and South could also have four-card diamond support.

1♦ – 1NT – 2♠ – 3♦ – 3♥ (patterning out) and we are off to the races as South knows about the heart ruff and that he has nothing wasted facing North's shortage.

Nobody bid the slam, there being five pairs in 3NT+2 and one in 5♦+1.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fatma</i>	<i>Miri</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Sbili</i>
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	


Opening bids have been getting weaker over recent decades and this inevitably leads to more poor games being reached. Some make, of course, but many go down.

I cannot imagine ever opening that South hand, vulnerable against not and second in hand, with such empty suits. Anyway, Sbili did open and when he showed his second suit Miri raised it to game.

Fatma led the queen of clubs, Sbili winning the ace and trying a diamond to the king in hope of either winning the king or setting it up as a discard for the third club. The diamond lost to the ace and Heshmat returned a club. Sbili won the ♣K and led a heart to the ace then ran the nine of spades to Fatma's queen. Fatma cashed the jack of clubs then tried an optimistic queen of diamonds. That was ruffed, of course, and when Sbili now led a spade towards the ten Fatma made sure by winning the ace. She tried the ♦J next but that was ruffed, and the winning heart finesse saw declarer take the rest; down one for –100.



Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
<i>Fatma</i>	<i>Miri</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Sbili</i>
–	–	–	1♥
Pass	2♥	2♠	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

With an ace and two kings, Fatma could hardly not invite game when Heshmat overcalled 2♠, albeit this is something of a pre-balancing situation – but how does partner know when it is a pre-balance and when a full-strength overcall? Three Spades was not a great spot.

Miri led a heart, Heshmat winning the ace and playing the nine of spades. Whether he intended to run that we will never know, because Miri covered with the ten and now the king lost to the ace. Back came the six of spades to the jack and queen, and that was one suit sorted out successfully. The problem now was that ruffing the third heart would see declarer in the wrong hand to play either minor suit as he would wish, so Heshmat instead led a club to the king. When that lost to the ace he was in trouble. Sbili returned a trump so Heshmat won that in hand and led the nine of diamonds. When Sbili hesitated but played low, Heshmat went up with the king then led a second diamond and ducked it, setting up the queen as a second diamond winner. However, there was nowhere to park either the club or the heart loser, so he was down one for –100.

It looks as though declarer can succeed by taking the heart ruff at trick three then leading the nine of spades with the intention of running it. If it gets covered he also covers and South wins the ace. Say three rounds of clubs are played; declarer ruffs the third round, leads a diamond to the king, and finesses against the remaining spade honour. He can draw the last trump then duck a diamond to establish the queen as his ninth trick. Yes, all of that is a bit double dummy, but Heshmat did get both spades and diamonds right in real life, so maybe...


Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fatma</i>	<i>Miri</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Sbili</i>
2♥	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Two Hearts was a constructive weak two bid and 2NT enquired. Why Fatma passed it out I don't know, but the contract drifted two down for –200 after a diamond lead, declarer having no reason to get the heart right to save a trick.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
<i>Fatma</i>	<i>Miri</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Sbili</i>
–	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Four pairs out of six bid to 6♥ but two declarers went down. It's not a great slam, but one can understand why South bid to it, despite partner's sign-off in 4♥ thinking there was a double fit. Personally, I think the 3♦ bid is wrong. North has 12 HCP and nine of them are in the black suits, what business does he have bidding hearts then diamonds with what is after all just a weak NT hand? As the hearts do not bear rebidding

either, what is wrong with rebidding 2NT and showing hand-type and strength?

Heshmat led a spade against 6♥ and declarer was forced to run it and hope the lead was away from the king. Yes, it was, so his queen won the trick. There were still two red-suit finesses to take, and at least one had to be right if slam was to make. Miri led a heart to the jack at trick two and the news was very good. He came back to hand with a club then played a second heart and the queen appeared. It remained only to draw the last trump and take the diamond finesse. Though that lost, there were 12 tricks for an excellent +1430.


Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fatma</i>	<i>Miri</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Sbili</i>
–	–	Pass	1♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Three No Trump was a balanced heart raise so Sbili signed off in 4♥. Fatma cashed the ace of clubs followed by the ace of diamonds, then reverted to clubs. Sbili won the ♣K and led the ten of hearts off the table and ran it, then repeated the finesse. After drawing trumps, the friendly spade position meant 11 tricks for +450.

Board 23. Dealer South. None Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fatma</i>	<i>Miri</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Sbili</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	1♦	1♥	1♠
2♥	3♠	3♥	All Pass

Heshmat bid twice on the East cards so became declarer in a delicate 3♥ contract.

Sbili led the queen of spades and, when it held, continued with the jack. Heshmat again played low and the ace fell from North. Miri cashed the ace of diamonds then must have pulled a wrong card as a low diamond continuation was won by dummy's ten as Heshmat discarded his third spade. He played ace and another heart now and was saved any decision when Miri rose with the king in front of the queen. Heshmat discarded a club on the diamond return, winning in dummy then drawing the missing trump. The queen of clubs was covered with the king and won with dummy's ace, and the remaining low diamond went away on the king of spades; nine tricks so just made for +140.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fatma</i>	<i>Miri</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Sbili</i>
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

The final board of qualifying was as dull as dull could be. Fatma opened a strong NT and Heshmat transferred to spades then left her to play there. There were five spades, two clubs and one diamond to be had, so eight in all for +110.

Morocco won by 22-27 IMPs, 15.23-4.77 VPs. That was more than enough to confirm their second place in the final rankings, and they would face Saudi Arabia in Saturdays semi-final, while Egypt would face Jordan.

# RESULTS - TEAMS

## ROUND 13

		IMPs	VPs 1	VPs 2
Egypt (Open)	UAE (Open)	41- 6	19.11	0.89
Jordan (Open)	Saudi Arabia (Open)	21- 5	15.50	4.50
Kuwait (Open)	Morocco (Open)	25-17	13.12	6.88
Egypt (Women)	Tunisia (Women)	7- 2	12.05	7.95
Morocco (Women)	UAE (Women)	10-29	3.77	16.23
-- --	Jordan (Women)	0- 0		10.00
Saudi Arabia (Women)	Palestine (Women)	11-19	6.88	13.12

## ROUND 14

		IMPs	VPs 1	VPs 2
Saudi Arabia (Open)	Egypt (Open)	2-21	3.77	16.23
UAE (Open)	Morocco (Open)	2-35	1.17	18.83
Jordan (Open)	Kuwait (Open)	11-23	5.61	14.39
Morocco (Women)	Egypt (Women)	28- 5	17.11	2.89
-- --	Tunisia (Women)			12.86
Saudi Arabia (Women)	UAE (Women)	21- 5	15.50	4.50
Palestine (Women)	Jordan (Women)	28- 7	16.68	3.32

## ROUND 15

		IMPs	VPs 1	VPs 2
Egypt (Open)	Morocco (Open)	7-22	4.77	15.23
Saudi Arabia (Open)	Kuwait (Open)	30- 6	17.31	2.69
UAE (Open)	Jordan (Open)	13-26	5.32	14.68
-- --	Jordan (Women)	12.00		
UAE (Women)	Egypt (Women)			
Tunisia (Women)	Morocco (Women)			
Palestine (Women)	Saudi Arabia (Women)			

**BUTLER RANKING:** <https://www.bridgewebs.com/ablonline/10tharabnationschampionships-833880063.htm>



# RESULTS - PAIRS

		SCORE	%
1	Mohamed Dewidar - Mohamed Nader	1569.2	65.6
2	Karim Salama - Jerry Stamatov	1560.8	65.25
3	Timur Edis - Elvan Edis	1545	64.59
4	Mikhhalis Somplis - Panayotis Scordas	1520.8	63.58
5	Mona Bamehrez - Vassilis	1516.5	63.4
6	Ioanna Pollatou - Iasonas Papaspirou	1514.1	63.3
7	Paul Hackett - Graham Osbourne	1468.2	61.38
8	Aaida Abu Jaber - Sakher Malkawi	1436.3	60.05
9	Ahmed Samir - Asser Fadaly	1409	58.91
10	Nermeen Qasim - Humayun Sumar	1404	58.7
11	Hala Abulfaraj - Mohamed Heshmat	1401.9	58.61
12	Selvi Skilijian - Baher Ahmed	1392.3	58.21
13	Hana Kredieh - Khaled Hassan	1391.1	58.16
14	Kazimierz Lichawski - Kazimierz Cios	1384.5	57.88
15	Fatim Lahlou - Samira Teber	1377.9	57.6
16	Yehia El Shazly - Ibrahim El Sebahi	1371.7	57.35
17	Mohammed Badawoud - Mohamed Al Azem	1367.1	57.15
18	Hassana Zubai - Hoda Rebeah	1359.3	56.83
19	Nahla Hamdan - Faten Farahat	1355.3	56.66
20	Mae Hourani - Azzouzi	1345.5	56.25
21	Sawsan Al Ebiary - Tamer Abbas	1344.4	56.2
22	Khaled Al Kattan - Karim Nabil	1343	56.14
23	Abdul Hakim Sahab - Bassem Afiouni	1342	56.1
24	Ghassan Ghanem - Bahjat Al Majali	1335	55.81
25	Maria Hindi - Mohamed Magdy	1330.6	55.63
26	Hoda Soliman - Dina El Awady	1319	55.14
27	Yasser Sindi - Mohamed Hammad	1318.2	55.11
28	Fatma Elmanadily - Ahmed Samir Zaky	1308.7	54.71
29	Hanan El Akkad - Ahmed Omran	1304.3	54.53
30	Imran Ali - Shauq Hussein	1301.2	54.4
31	Hayat Hachimi - Fattouma Berrada	1301	54.39
32	Daisy Liyan - Loulou Amsih	1296.7	54.21
33	Rose Melanie - Sukha Gupta	1290.3	53.94
34	Ahmed Alruwayeh - Mahmoud Zaitoun	1286.2	53.77
35	Clement Moaamerbashi - Marwan Ghanem	1282.4	53.61
36	Lina Hassan - Walid Assad	1273.1	53.22
37	Hala Malki - Maher Hefni	1272.2	53.19
38	Mona Al Zaben - Ayman Azzam	1272	53.18
39	Ghalib Bandesha - Nauman Khalid	1262.8	52.79
40	Doha Adra - Nour Aghs	1258.7	52.62
41	Mariem Bander - Ahmed Harb	1253	52.38
42	Zain Demeshkeih - Salim Traplosi	1216.6	50.86
43	Ahmed Kattan - Walid El Ahmady	1212.5	50.69
44	Christina Audiche - Alain Audiche	1203.7	50.32
45	Hanan Al Bitar - Nawar Hachem	1201.3	50.22
46	Roula Ebad - Samer Koussa	1197.5	50.06
47	Sven-Gunnar Hallberg - John Holland	1189.5	49.73

		SCORE	%
48	Rita Ghosn - Hany Dagher	1188.1	49.67
49	Fireal Batshon - Aabeda Al Saeh	1187	49.62
50	Wafa Nourallah - Walid Masri	1181.1	49.38
51	Lina El Masry - George Kachmi	1180.3	49.34
52	Ali Khalifa - Badr Al Refaie	1176.2	49.17
53	May Haddad - Amjad Demeshkeih	1171.5	48.97
54	Nawal Tarawneh - Aziz Amer	1161.3	48.55
55	Farida Botrous - Sherif Helmy	1161	48.54
56	Lili Dalldoul - Nejah Ben Arab	1158.7	48.44
57	Fiuroz Badwan - Fadia Karash	1150	48.08
58	Amal Amer - Ahmed Nayer	1147.3	47.97
59	Rawya Akl - Ahmed Rabie	1141.8	47.74
60	Muhammws Akhtar - Minhaj Qadawi	1140.2	47.67
61	Rula Batieneh - Obeda Boukhari	1135.3	47.46
62	Tareg Alyafi - Adnan Mosly	1128	47.16
63	Leila Djait - Nessima Zorgati	1126.9	47.11
64	Jalila Ghodbhane - Hussam Sallout	1123.3	46.96
65	Hana Wattar - Fahed Al Zamin	1121	46.86
66	Nadia El Araby - Nesrine Hamdy	1107.4	46.3
67	Suhair Miqdadi - Moaz Hammam	1097.7	45.89
68	Mimi Abu Ghazalah - Endjy El Kateb	1095.1	45.78
69	Dalia Hashem - Abdelrahman Mosaad	1087.5	45.46
70	Samira Zomut - Rima Murad	1086.5	45.42
71	Farid Aita - Kinda Jazzar	1083.8	45.31
72	Yasser Rahim - Jahangir Ahmed	1077.1	45.03
73	Aml Rahbani - Fayza Al Azm	1076	44.98
74	Hussein Adam Ali - Tamer Eissa	1053.7	44.05
75	Radwan Attasi - Rashad Shebib	1043.9	43.64
76	Wafiga Al Sadat - Mohamed Abdelazim	1039.7	43.46
77	Sahar Kusbari - Riad Kahlah	1039.3	43.45
78	Raghda Quatly - Khirat Ramadan	1034.3	43.24
79	Randa Almalki - Mujahed Adnan	1023	42.77
80	Hanan Shaaban - Bassam Shaaban	1005.4	42.03
81	Salem Sabbali - Omar Swayegh	1003.8	41.97
82	Ellias Peeran - Mohamed Hammouda	988.5	41.33
83	Masood Mazhar - Sapan Desai	974.3	40.73
84	Afef Oukaci - Abdulaziz Alsogair	954.5	39.9
85	Dora Mlayeh - Oum Elkhair Ameer	947.3	39.6
86	Abed Almenam Mansour - Faiz Hassan	937.7	39.2
87	Nahal Qubean - Asma Halssah	936	39.13
88	Samia Salfeti - Yasmin Abu Jaber	936	39.13
89	Nuha Batikhy - Ahmed Mansour	915.1	38.26
90	Mary Argyropoulou - Maria Panoutsakopoulou	914.9	38.25
91	Rafia Driss - Nefissa Mehiri	887.2	37.09
92	Khawla Abu Hassan - Rabab Shanquti	807.3	33.75
93	Elham Al Saedi - Nisreen Dsouqi	686.1	28.68
94	Samar Aqbik - Ahmed El Midfaa	599.4	25.06