Bulletin 04 Sunday, 17 November 2024 Editor: **Brian Senior**Layout Editor: **Francesca Canali**Photographer: **Ms. Lenda Qari**



Sunday's final of the Open Teams will be between Egypt and Morocco, while the Women's final will feature Tunisia and UAE. The UAE Women's team came back from 28-58 down after two of the three 10-board sessions against Egypt to win by 83.5-71 – quite a turnaround.

Meanwhile, the Championship Pairs has one more session to run. At the end of session two the Engish pair of Paul Hackett and Graham Osbourne lead, but only by a narrow margin. They are on 65.41% while Jerry Stamatov (once of Bulgaria but now a long-time resident of USA), and Karim Salama are on 64.59%. They in turn are followed by Ioanna Pollatou and Iasonas Papaspirou of Greece with 63.98%. there is an almost 3% gap to the chasing pack.

PICS FROM TODAY

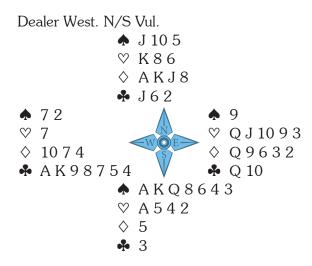








YESTERDAY'S QUIZ - SOLUTION



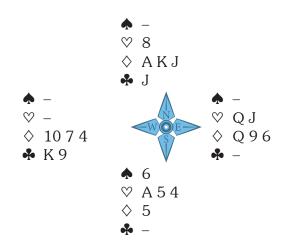
West	North	East	South
3♣	Pass	Pass	4
Pass	5 ^	Pass	6 ♠
All Pass			

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

There are eleven top tricks and the possibility to either take the diamond finesse or to play three rounds in an attempt to ruff out the queen. As East will usually have the diamond length, these two plays will usually either both succeed or both fail.

If declarer intends to play to ruff out the queen of diamonds, he may think it is correct to win the heart switch in hand to preserve the late entry. However, that fails as the cards lie and there is a much stronger line available which caters to the fact that East rates to have the red-suit length.

Declarer should win the heart switch with the king, preserving his communications for a squeeze. He draws the trumps, finding that West had two. Ruff a club now to leave West as the only defender able to guard the suit, then rattle off the trumps. This will be the position when the last trump is played:



West is under no pressure when declarer cashes the last spade, pitching the nine of clubs. Dummy has no further use for the jack of clubs but East is squeezed. He throws a diamond to keep the heart guard but now the queen falls under the ace-king and the diamond jack is the twelfth trick.

TODAY'S QUIZ

Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ A 5 4 2

♡ 6

♦ K 10 8 6 5 2

♣ Q6



♠ Q

♥ A 9 5 4 2

♦ AQJ7

♣ AJ7

You would have expected to score well above average had you reached the small slam on this deal but, flushed with success after making the four previous slams, you bid all the way to Seven Diamonds and receive the lead of the diamond nine, Easy following with the three.

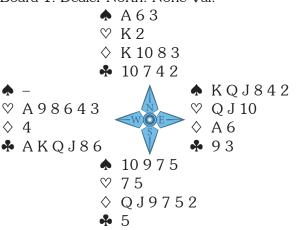
The answer will be published tomorrow...

OPEN SF1 - EGYPT V JORDAN

Egypt had coasted through the round robin stage and headed the rankings by more than two full matches. Jordan had also qualified well enough, but had only secured their semi-final place near the end of qualifying. Would this form continue, or would Jordan spring a surprise and beat their more fancied opponents?

The match began with a bang, a cold slam for E/W on Board 1.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Ghanem	Nabi	Clement	Heshmat
_	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 %	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♡	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Nayer	Sakher	Moazz	Aaida
_	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2♡	Pass	2 ^	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♣	Pass	$4\diamondsuit$	Pass
6 .	Pass	6♡	All Pass

While Clement, for Jordan, supported hearts at his second turn, Moazz, for Egypt, preferred to show the strong spade suit before admitting to heart support at his third turn. It mattered not, with both pairs sailing into the small heart slam.

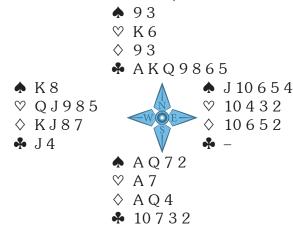
Sakher tried to cash the ace of spades, which was of course ruffed, while Nabi led a diamond. Both declarers took the losing heart finesse but had the rest for a flat board at +980.

Board 2 was flat in $3\heartsuit$ just made by E/W after the opposition had bid up to $3\clubsuit$, then came another

possible slam deal.

Pass

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Ghanem	Nabi	Clement	Heshmat
_	_	_	1NT
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	$4\diamondsuit$
Pass	4NT	Pass	5 %
Pass	5NT	Pass	6 %
Pass	6NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Nayer	Sakher	Moazz	Aaida
_	_	_	1NT
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3♦
	_		

Aaida opened 1NT and Sakher responded 2♠, transfer to clubs. Sakher blasted 6♣ at his next turn, against which Moazz led the jack of spades. Sakher took full advantage of the helpful lead. He won the ace, dew trumps and eliminated hearts before playing a second spade, and it didn't matter whether he put up the queen or not as Nayer was endplayed upon winning the king; +920.

All Pass

6

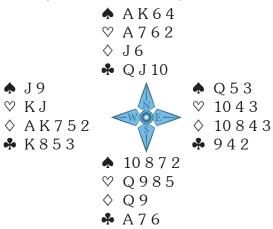
Note that on a passive heart lead the elimination is still the correct play, cashing the ace of spades then leading up to the queen – $\bigstar K$ doubleton offside being a small extra chance over just playing for one of two finesses to win that brings home the contract. On a diamond lead, declarer can still get home by rising with the ace and cashing the clubs and hearts before exiting with the $\diamondsuit Q$ for an endplay, but why would he play that way?

Heshmat also opened 1NT and Nabi transferred to clubs, 2NT showing a liking for the suit. Four Clubs was a clear slam try and Heshmat's cuebid saw Nabi

ask for key-cards then for kings, before opting to play 6NT to protect the South hand from the opening lead. Six No Trump can be made, following the double dummy line mentioned after a diamond lead against 64, but not as a practical matter after a heart lead. Heshmat tried the two finesses and the slam was defeated; 14 IMPs to Jordan.

The next few deals saw a string of comfortable game contracts where the only interest was in how many overtricks declarer would come to. These boards proved to be quite fruitful for Egypt, who picked up 7 IMPs over the three boards to close to 7-14.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.



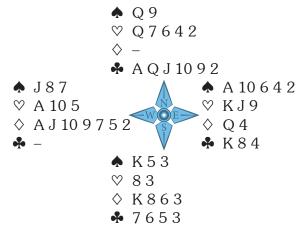
West	North	East	South
Ghanem	Nabi	Clement	Heshmat
_	_	_	Pass
1♦	Dble	Pass	$2 \diamondsuit$
Dble	Pass	Pass	2 %
Pass	3♡	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Nayer	Sakher	Moazz	Aaida
_	_	_	Pass
1 ♦	Dble	Pass	1 ^
All Pass			

Sakher doubled the $1\diamondsuit$ opening and Aaida opted to respond $1\clubsuit$ so that she could compete with $2\heartsuit$ if necessary, bidding her suits in the right order at allow partner to choose either one without having to go higher. One Spade was a very comfortable contract, making with an overtrick for +110, declarer losing two diamonds and one trick in each of the other suits. The auction, of course, made it clear how to play the heart suit.

By contrast, Heshmat chose to respond with a cuebid, aiming to find the better major-suit fit in case his partner held only three cards in one of them. Unfortunately, Nabi expected a better hand for this action and invited game with a raise to 3%, and that

was one too many even after getting the heart right. The contract was down one for -100 and 5 IMPs back to Jordan; 19-7.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Ghanem	Nabi	Clement	Heshmat
3♣	Dble	Pass	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Nayer	Sakher	Moazz	Aaida
$1 \diamondsuit$	2♣	2 ^	Pass
3♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	5♡	Pass
6 ♠	All Pass		

Nayer got over-optimistic on this one. Despite his partner's failure to cuebid over the forcing 3 raise, he committed to the five level with a slam try then jumped to slam when Moazz scraped up a heart cuebid. Aaida led a club, so Moazz ruffed and led the eight of spades to the nine, ten and king. Aaida returned a second club, again ruffed in dummy, and now Moazz had hopes for his contract due to the fortunate spade layout. He came to hand with the king of hearts to draw the outstanding trumps, and just needed the king of diamonds to be onside...

It was, but the four-nil split meant only three diamond winners and 10 tricks in all; down two for -100.

Things were completely different in the other room, where Ghanem opened $3\clubsuit$, showing diamonds, and Nabi doubled. When that was passed round to Ghanem he corrected to $3\diamondsuit$ and nobody had anything to add. Ghanem won the heart lead in hand and played ace and another diamond, and the friendly spade position meant that there was just one of those to be lost along with the \diamondsuit K; 11 tricks for +150 and 6 IMPs to Jordan, growing the lead to 25-7.

Board 9 saw both E/Ws play $4\heartsuit + 2$ – slam could

not be beaten, but you wouldn't want to be in it..

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ A 7 4♡ K Q J♦ 10 6 2♣ 110 8 6

♣ J 10 8 2

♠ J865

♡ 108652

♦ A
♣ A 6 3

♠ 2♥ A 9♦ K Q 9 8 4 3♠ Q 9 7 5

♦ KQ1093 ♥ 743

♣ K4

West	North	East	South
Ghanem	Nabi	Clement	Heshmat
_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$	1
2 %	2 ^	Pass	Pass
3♡	Pass	4♡	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Nayer	Sakher	Moazz	Aaida
_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$	1 %
2♦(i)	2 4	All Pass	

Ghanem bid twice with five to the ten, and Clement took him seriously and raised to game. Not surprisingly, Nabi doubled the final contract.

Nabi cashed the ace of spades against 4% doubled then switched to the jack of clubs, which Ghanem won with the ace. He cashed the ace of diamonds, ruffed a spade, and took two spade pitches on the king and queen of diamonds. Next, he played another diamond and, when Heshmat pitched a spade, threw a club from hand. It would have been better for the defence had Heshmat ruffed as Nabi had to ruff with a natural trump trick. He then returned a club to the queen and king. There was just one trump to be lost from here so Ghanem's indiscretion cost only -200 for down one.

However, in the other room, N/S were left to play in 2♠ and a losing club guess meant down two for another -200 and 9 IMPs to Egypt.

The first set ended with Jordan in the lead by 25-16 IMPs. There were two more 10-board sets to play.

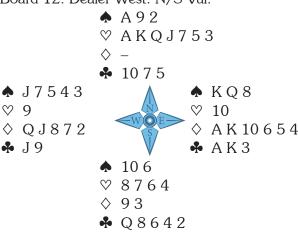




WOMEN SF2 - PALESTINE V TUNISIA

Tunisia led Palestine by 18-15 IMPs after a closely fought first set. Tunisia picked up 3 IMPs on the first board of the new set, then:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



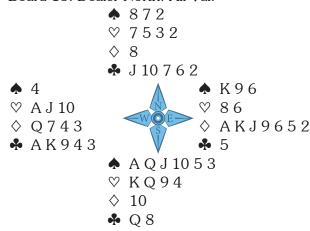
West	North	East	South
Hanan	Maissa	Nawar	Jalila
Pass	2 ♣	$2 \diamondsuit$	Pass
3♦	3♡	4♦	4♡
5◊	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Nejah	May	Ferdous	Fiuroz
Pass	1 %	Dble	4♡
4	All Pass		

Vulnerability does make cowards of us all. Having collected heart support from partner, I would have expected North to compete to the five level, partly because 11 tricks might be possible facing the right dummy, but also because the opposing game might be making and 5% be only down one – and if it is down two and we get doubled, who cares if we lose –500 once in a while?



Two very different auctions saw E/W declare two different games. With spades three-two and no way to get at a diamond ruff in a spade contract, both $4 \spadesuit$ and $5 \diamondsuit$ made 11 tricks, so +450 to Tunisia and +400 to Palestine, and 2 IMPs to Tunisia, who led by 23-15.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Hanan	Maissa	Nawar	Jalila
Nejah	Мау	Ferdous	Fiuroz
_	Pass	$1 \diamondsuit$	1 %
2 %	Pass	$2\diamondsuit$	2 ^
5♦	All Pass		

Identical auctions saw the two Easts play in $5\diamondsuit$, where there were two losers, so flat at +600. Might West have made a slam try, perhaps a spade splinter bid, when partner rebid the diamonds? Perhaps, but a spade splinter would not have encouraged East on this occasion as it would show the $\bigstar K$ to be of little value. Give east the $\heartsuit K$ instead of the $\bigstar K$, but keeping the same distribution, and slam would have been cold.

Board 14 saw both E/W pairs bid uncontested to $3\heartsuit$ and make it exactly for a push board.

You pick up:

♠ AKQJ109♡ 842◇ A♣ QJ2

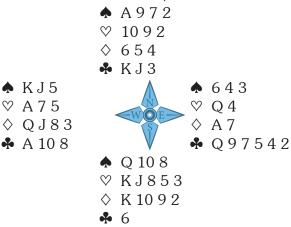
and vulnerable against not open $1 \spadesuit$ and see 1NT from partner, and a $2 \diamondsuit$ overcall on your right. What would you bid?

On Board 15, Jalila jumped to $3\spadesuit$ and was left to play there, while Fiuroz jumped to $4\spadesuit$. Partner held a 3-3-3-4 hand with the ace of clubs and jack of

diamonds. There was no miracle in clubs so both lost four tricks; +140 for Tunisia, but -100 for Palestine and 6 IMPs to Tunisia, who led by 29-15.

Of course, the other question is whether you would respond to $1 \spadesuit$ holding the 3-3-3-4 five-count?

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



West Hanan 1NT 3♣	North Maissa Pass All Pass	East Nawar 2♠	South Jalila Pass
West	North	East	South
Nejah	Мау	Ferdous	Fiuroz
1NT	Pass	2 ^	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both Wests opened 1NT and both Easts transferred to clubs. Presumably, Nejah's 34 rebid said that she liked clubs, as Ferdous went on to the NT game. Wahtever the message sent by Hanan's 34 rebid, Nawar was less encouraged by it and passed out 34.

maissa led the nine of hearts against $3\clubsuit$, the queen being covered by the king and ace. Hanan ran the jack of diamonds, losing to the king, and the spade return went to the jack and ace. Back came a second spade for the ten and king, and that established the fifth defensive winner, ready to cash when Maissa was in with the $\clubsuit K$; down one for -100.

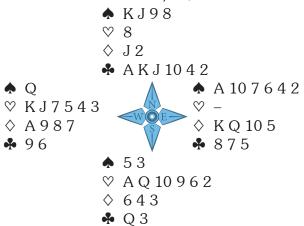
Declarer could have succeeded had she played ace and another diamond instead of taking the finesse. A winning spade guess would then have seen her able to take a pitch of the third spade on a diamond winner, after which ace and another club would have seen her home.

May led the two of spades against 3NT, the queen losing to the king. Nejah played ace then ten of clubs, the latter being covered by jack and queen. She cleared the clubs but now May found the heart switch for the queen, king and ace. Nejah led the queen of diamonds but saved herself a lot of undertricks by rising with the ace when there was no flicker on her

left. She could cash the clubs now and was just one down for -100 and no swing.

Tunisia picked up 2 more IMPs for an extra undertrick on Board 17 to take their lead up to 31-15, then came a chunky weak two bid for the respective East players.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Hanan	Maissa	Nawar	Jalila
_	_	$2 \diamondsuit$	Pass
2 ♠	3♣	3♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Nejah	Мау	Ferdous	Fiuroz
_	_	2.	All Pass

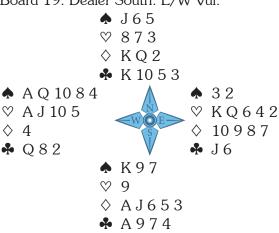
The natural weak two bid silenced everyone, while the multi $2\diamondsuit$ opening and pass or correct response



saw Maissa overcall with the North hand and Nawar bid again when she perhaps would have been wiser not to, for all that she had extra playing strength due to her diamond side-suit – partner had said she didn't like spades.

There wasn't much to the play, there being three trump losers and two clubs, so that was -50 for Tunisia and -100 for Palestine, so 2 IMPs to Tunisia, who now led by 33-15.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Hanan	Maissa	Nawar	Jalila
_	_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$
Dble	Rdbl	1 %	2♣
2 %	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♡	4 ♣	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
West Nejah	North <i>May</i>	East Ferdous	South Fiuroz
			Fiuroz
Nejah –	May –	Ferdous –	Fiuroz 1♦

Hanan doubled the 10 opening then supported nawar's harts at her next turn. When she then continued with 3\infty in competition, Nawar might have taken another look at her hand and appreciated that he partner was doing all this bidding opposite would could have been a far weaker hand than the one she actually held, as all she had done was respond to a take-out double. Indeed, she might have been the one to compete with 3% herself. However, she passed out 44, against which Hanan led the ace of hearts then switched to her singleton diamond. That would have been fine had Nawar had an entry with which to give her partner the desired ruff, but in practice declarer was in control. She won the $\Diamond K$, ruffed a heart, then cashed the top clubs and played on diamonds, and had 10 tricks, with two spades going away on the diamonds; +130.

Nejah preferred to start the West hand with a $1 \spadesuit$ overcall then showed her second suit, and that was enough to see Ferdous raise to game. With spades three-three and the king onside, the play was quite straightforward and Nejah quickly collected 10 tricks for +620 and 13 IMPs to Tunisia, whose lead grew to 46-15.

The last board was flat in game so after 20 boards Tunisia led Palestine by 46-15 IMPs, with 10 more boards to play. They had, as a baseball fan would say, pitched a shut-out in the second set, winning it by 28-0.

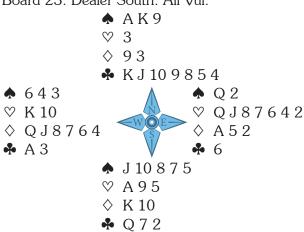


OPEN SF3 - MOROCCO V SAUDI ARABIA

Morocco led Saudi Arabia by 6 IMPs, 50-43, after two of the three sets of their Open semi-final. It's better to lead by six than trail by six, but in 10 boards there would be plenty of scope for the lead to change hands more than once.

Saudi Arabia picked up an overtrick IMP in $3\diamondsuit$ on the first board, making it 44-50, and Board 22 was flat at $4\triangle+1$ by South.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Hakeem	Mohamed	Bassem	Chaoukri
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	1♣	3♡	3♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Said	Khaled	Miri	Taher
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	3♣	3♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Curiously, it was Saudi players who pre-empted at both tables.

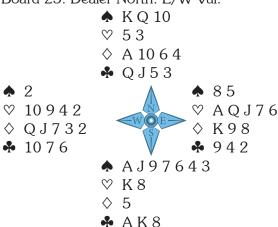
For Morocco, Mohamed opened at the one level in third seat and Bassem overcalled 3%. As a passed hand, Chaoukri felt that he could show his five-card spade suit, and Mohamed guessed to pass that out. Meanwhile, at the other table Khaled opened a heavy $3\clubsuit$ pre-empt in third seat and, when Miri overcalled 3%, Said had enough to raise to the heart game.

Four Hearts was quite straightforward after a safe club lead from Taher. Miri won the ace and played on hearts, Taher winning the second round and playing another club. The missing trump was drawn and Miri played two rounds of diamonds, losing to the king. Two spades were cashed and that was one down for -100.

Hakeem led the king of hearts against 3♠, Chaoukri winning the ace and playing the seven of clubs. Hakeem won the ace and led the ten of hearts, dummy ruffing with the nine. Chaoukri cashed the ace and king of spades, bringing down the queen, and and led a club to his queen. When that stood up, he could draw the outstanding trump and cash all the clubs, making 12 tricks for +230 and 4 IMPs to Morocco, who led by 54-44.

Board 24 was flat in N/S $4\heartsuit+2$ off to aces, then came an opportunity to bid a cold slam.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Hakeem	Mohamed	Bassem	Chaoukri
_	$1 \diamondsuit$	1 %	1 ^
2 %	2 ^	Pass	4NT
Pass	5 ^	Pass	6 ♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Said	Khaled	Miri	Taher
_	$1 \diamondsuit$	1 %	1 🛧
3♡	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5 ^	Pass	6 ^
All Pass			

As soon as they saw partner's spade raise, whether to the two- or three-level, the respective South players asked for key-cards then bid the small slam on finding partner with two plus the trump queen. The fourth club trick meant that there was no need to worry about the heart position; flat at +980.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul. ♠ K53 ♥ K9865 ♦ 9873 **♣** K ♠ A 10 9 6 QJ872 ♥ J 10 3 ♥ A 2 ♦ Q 6 A ♣ J9762 ♣ Q543 ♥ Q74 ♦ KJ10542 ♣ A 10 8

West	North	East	South
Hakeem	Mohamed	Bassem	Chaoukri
_	_	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1 ^	$2 \diamondsuit$
2♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Said	Khaled	Miri	Taher
_	_	1 ♠	2 ♣
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Bassem passed as dealer and Hakeem opened in third seat then showed a minimum with spade support and Bassem did very well to downgrade his hand and



Khaled Kattan

settle for partscore, no doubt not liking the doubleton $\Diamond Q$. Chaoukri led the four of hearts to the ten, king and ace, and Bassem took the spade finesse, losing to the king. Mohamed cashed the king of clubs then went back to hearts, and Chaouki won the queen and played ace then ten of clubs for his partner to ruff. That was it for the defence, so the contract was just made for +110.

Miri opened in first seat, declined a game invitation, but was then raised to game anyway by Said. Play was card for card as at the other table, but here that meant down two for -200 and 7 IMPs to Saudi Arabia, who closed to 51-54 with four boards to play.

The next deal was another slam for N/S.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul. **♠** J643 ♡ AJ4 ♦ AK3 ♣ A 7 5 **♠** 10 2 K ♥ Q 9 ♥ 87632 ♦ Q9872 ♦ J 10 6 **%** 83 QJ10942 ♠ AQ9875 ♥ K 10 5 ♦ 54 **♣** K 6

West	North	East	South
Hakeem	Mohamed	Bassem	Chaoukri
_	_	_	1 ^
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6 ♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Said	Khaled	Miri	Taher
_	_	_	1 ♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6 ^	All Pass	

Both Norths sued the artificial 2NT response to let partner know that spades were trumps, then launched into Key-card. Discovering that one was missing, they of course settled for the small slam.

Chaoukri got the heart right for the overtrick, while Taher did not, so 1 IMP to Morocco, who led by 55-51 with three boards to play.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ -♡ Q 9 8 7 6 2◇ K 10 8 6♣ J 10 3

♠ 10873♡ K1053◇ 972

♣ J9654
 ♥ A
 ♦ QJ53
 ♣ A76

♣ K9
♠ AKQ2
♥ J4
♦ A4

♣ Q8542

West Hakeem Pass 3♠	North Mohamed 2♡ All Pass	East Bassem 2♠	South Chaoukri Pass
West	North	East	South
Said	Khaled	Miri	Taher
Pass	2♡	2 ^	2NT
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Both Norths opened a weak two and both Easts overcalled $2 \spadesuit$.

After a pass from South, Hakeem raised to $3\spadesuit$, which ended the auction. Chaoukri cashed the ace of spades then switched to ace and another diamond. Mohamed won the king and gave his partner the desired diamond ruff, and that was down two for -100.



Moaz Hammam

Taher bid 2NT, enquiry just as though there had been no overcall, and Said raised to $3\spadesuit$. When that came round to Taher he made a penalty double, then led the ace, queen, king and two of spades. Miri won in dummy and led a diamond to the jack and ace, won the club return in hand with the ace, and cashed the ace of hearts. He could now cross to dummy's king of clubs to take a club pitch on the $\heartsuit K$ then lead towards the queen of diamonds. As North had pitched a diamond early on, that established two diamond winners and the contract was down only one for -100 and no swing.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul. ♠ 943 ♦ KJ1043 ♣ J2 ♠ KQ765 A 2 ♥ 63 J 10 8 7 4 ♦ 85 ♦ A ♣ AK98 **♣** 76543 ♣ J 10 8 ♥ K52 ♦ Q9762 ♣ Q 10

West	North	East	South
Hakeem	Mohamed	Bassem	Chaoukri
_	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	4♣	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Said	Khaled	Miri	Taher
_	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	$2 \diamondsuit$	Dble	3♦
All Pass			

Mohamed passed over the opposing $1 \spadesuit$ opening and his opponents found their club fit but stopped short of the game that required a two-two trump split. Clubs duly split two-two, so Hakeem won 11 tricks for +150.

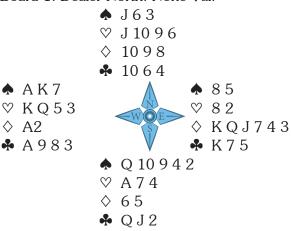
Khaled overcalled $2\diamondsuit$ in the other room and that shut out the clubs. Taher raised to $3\diamondsuit$ and that was two down for -200 and 2 IMPs to Morocco, whose lead was up to 57-51.

The final deal saw the Saudi N/S miss a making game that was bid at the other table, so 6 more IMPs to Morocco, who ran out winners by 63-51, and would be in Sunday's 30-board final, where they would face Egypt.

OPEN PAIRS - SESSION 2

For Session 2 of the Open Pairs I sat down to watch across from one of my regular partners, Paul Hackett, who is partnering another English international, Graham Osbourne, here in Jeddah. The first half of the session provided plenty of entertainment.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Aaida	Osbourne	Sakher	Hackett
_	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		



Jerry Stamatov

The first board of the session was quickly over. Sakher opened $3\diamondsuit$ in second seat, which looks good to me, and Aaida responded 3NT. Graham's lead of the jack of hearts to Paul's ace meant that moments later Aaida could claim the rest; 12 tricks for +490. Paul and Graham scored 45% on the board.

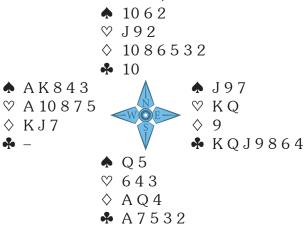
Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul. ♠ KQ97543 ♥ 6 ♦ J73 ♣ K 6 **♦** J8 102 ♥ K9742 ♥ Q 108 ♦ 542 ♦ Q 10 9 **♣** J85 109742 **♠** A 6 ♦ AK86 ♣ AQ3

West	North	East	South
Aaida	Osbourne	Sakher	Hackett
_	_	Pass	2♣
Pass	2 ^	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♡	Pass	4NT
Pass	5 %	Pass	5♦
Pass	6 %	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

Two Clubs was the usual, strong and artificial, and $2\spadesuit$ a natural positive. Two No Trump was 22+ balanced and $3\spadesuit$ showed extra length in the suit. After an exchange of cuebids, Paul asked for keycards, found one, then asked about the queen of trumps, with $6\clubsuit$ showing both the \spadesuit Q and the king of clubs. Suspecting the seventh spade as they would not give a positive response to $2\clubsuit$ lightly, Paul hoped for 13 tricks and, if there were, why not play in 7NT rather than $7\spadesuit$.

There were indeed 13 tricks so that was +2220 and a 95% score.

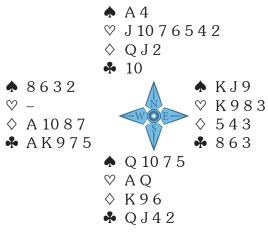
Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Mujahed	Osbourne	Randa	Hackett
_	_	_	1
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4♡	Pass	5 %	All Pass

Te auction looks odd, to say the least. The explanation is simple – East had not noticed South's 1♣ opening so was bidding as though facing a strong and artificial 2♣ opening. The fall of the singleton ten of clubs meant that there was only one trump loser to go with the ace of diamonds, which Graham led to at trick one, so the contract was just made for +600 but 88% to Paul and Graham.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.



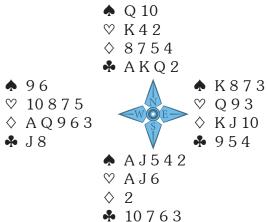
West	North	East	South
Mujahed	Osbourne	Randa	Hackett
1♣	1 %	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♡	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

Graham overcalled $1 \heartsuit$ then felt that he was way too good for a simple $2 \heartsuit$ rebid over Paul's genuine heart raise cuebid – he could have overcalled $1 \heartsuit$ with

eight points and only five hearts so, in a sense, had two spare tricks. He tried $2\diamondsuit$ to hedge his bets, but then bid hearts twice more when Paul suggested NT.

Four Hearts can be beaten, of course, the simple way being via a diamond lead and spade switch, but the 1% opener did not promise genuine clubs and Randa led from strength, the suit in which she had most help for her partner. The nine of spades was won with dummy's 10 and Graham led a spade to the ace, noting the expected fall of the jack, took the heart finesse and ruffed a spade, bringing down the king. A heart to the ace allowed him to pitch his club loser on the queen of spades and, though Randa could ruff, there were only the $\heartsuit K$ and $\diamondsuit A$ so that was just made for +620 and 83%.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Asma	Osbourne	Nahal	Hackett
_	1NT	Pass	2 %
Pass	2 ^	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

One No trump was 14-16 so Paul transferred then bid 2NT to invite game and Graham, with a minimum and only two spades, passed.

As the cards lie, 3NT can be made if the defence does not start off by cashing five diamond tricks. That is very unlikely to happen with East on lead, but Asma, West, led the six of diamonds out of turn. Now, the real declarer has several options. Isn't it tempting to accept the lead and have the diamond go round to the South hand, perhaps stealing a trick with the king which will not be made at any other table? Well, Graham succumbed to that temptation and, just to add a little twist accepted the lead but let Paul play the hand.

After five rounds of diamonds, Asma switched to a spade, having seen Paul throw a couple away, and he had the last eight tricks for +120 but only 4% of the matchpoints.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	• 8
	♥ K942
	♦ A Q 4
	♣ J 10 7 5 3
♦ 94	▲ A7532
♡ QJ103	♥ A865
♦ K765	♦ 98
♣ KQ6	₩ 82
	♠ KQJ106
	♥ 7
	♦ J 10 3 2
	♣ △ 9 <i>1</i>

West	North	East	South
Asma	Osbourne	Nahal	Hackett
_	_	Pass	1 ^
Pass	1NT	Pass	$2 \diamondsuit$
All Pass			

North has a nasty problem after South's $2\diamondsuit$ rebid. After all, in a standard system opener could have up to 17 or even 18 HCP, and game could be easy. But partner is more likely to be at the weaker end of his possible range, simply because the further one gets away from having one's fair share -10 HCP - the less frequent is the hand. I'm sure that 2NT was the popular choice, but Graham passed out $2\diamondsuit$ - I suspect he would have been less inclined to do so at Teams scoring.



Paul Hackett

Asma led the queen of hearts and, when it held the trick, continued with the jack, which Paul ruffed. He tried to sneak the ten of spades past the ace but, of course, the ace was in the wrong hand for that to work. Nahal won the A and returned the eight of clubs. Paul rosewith the ace nd cashed the king of spades then continued with the jack, and Asma discarded a heart so the jack scored and next came the queen. This time Asma ruffed low and was over-ruffed with the queen. Paul ruffed a heart then led the fifth spade ruffed and over-ruffed with the ace. He still had the jack and ten of diamonds and had to make one of them for his eighth trick; just made for +90 and 44%.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul. **♠** Q93 ♥ 10973 ♦ KQ943 ♠ K7 A J 5 2 ♡ KJ4 Q 2 ♦ 8762 ♦ A J 10 ♣ QJ104 ♣ K962 10864 ♥ A865 ♦ 5 **8753**

West	North	East	South
Jahangir	Osbourne	Yasser	Hackett
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	$1 \diamondsuit$	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Graham opened $1\Diamond$ in third seat and Yasser overcalled 1NT and was raised to game by Jahangir.

Paul led his singleton diamond to the queen and ace and Yasser played a club. Graham won the bare ace and played king and another diamond to establish two winners for himself. Yasser cashed a club in each hand, causing Graham some discomfort, but he pitched one spade and one diamond, and now Yasser played the queen of hearts. Paul won the ace and returned a spade and Yasser erred by running this to the queen and ace. He had 10 tricks now but couldn't untangle the jack and king of spades, and was left to concede a diamond at trick 13; just made for +600 and 51% to Paul and Graham.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

	Q 7 6 2
\Diamond	A 10
\Diamond	A 9 5 3 2
2	17

	A 10 9 4
\Diamond	J 7 6 4
\Diamond	O 10

632



	8
\Diamond	983
\Diamond	KJ87
•	17 10 0

♣ K 10 9 8	5
------------	---

West	North	East	South
Jahangir	Osbourne	Yasser	Hackett
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2\$
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3♣
Dble	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Graham passed in third seat but when 1NT came round to him doubled, showing one major and one minor. That apparently was about as far as this non-regular partnership had gone in their systemic discussions, so the rest of the auction was slightly murky. At some point Jahangir started doubling, but they had found a nine-card fit and things were much

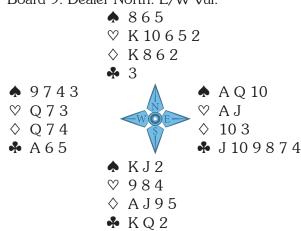


Graham Osbourne

better than they might have been.

Yasser led a diamond, the second lead out of turn in the set, and Paul was able to repay the favour and accept the lead but let Graham be declarer. The diamond went to the to the ten and ace and Graham led his low club towards dummy. Yasser went up with the ace and returned the king of hearts, Graham winning with the ace and leading a diamond and putting in the jack. That lost to the queen, as it was always likely to, but Graham had calculated that he needed to draw trumps and that to get the suit wrong if they were three-one would be dangerous, while getting them wrong when they were two-two would be OK. Sure enough, when Jahangir played jack and another heart, Graham ruffed and played king of clubs and ruffed a club, setting up his nine tricks for +470 and 100% of the matchpoints.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Fadia	Osbourne	Fiuroz	Hackett
_	Pass	1 ♣	Dble
1	2 %	Dble	Pass
Pass	3♡	All Pass	

Graham misjudged this one, as $2 \spadesuit$ would have been defeated while $3 \heartsuit$ also had to fail by a trick. To be fair, Paul might have had a fourth heart or less in spades and more elsewhere, when $3 \heartsuit$ could have been the winning action. The jack of clubs was led to the king and ace and a second club led to the queen, Graham discarding a spade. He led the four of hearts to the ten and jack,ruffed the club return, and led a diamond to the jack. That lost to the queen and Fadia now returned a spade to her partner's ace and Fiuroz cashed the ace of hearts then exited with her remaining diamond. Graham won in hand, cashed the \heartsuit K, and had eight tricks for one down and -50. That was worth only 41% of the matchpoints.



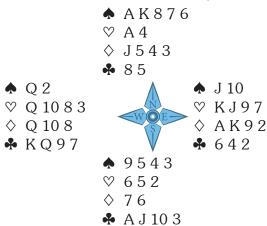
9 9 7 3

West	North	East	South
Fadia	Osbourne	Fiuroz	Hackett
_	_	Pass	Pass
1 🗫	All Pass		

Fadia opened 1 and, when Graham couldn't find a sensible action with his 14-count, Fiuroz passed, as did Paul.

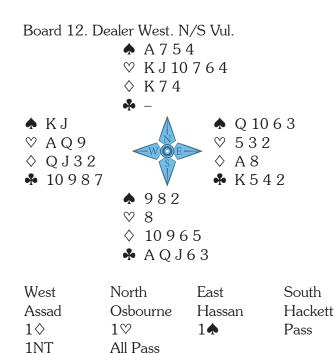
Graham led the king then queen of hearts, then switched to the jack of spades. Fadia won the ace and led a club to the jack then back to the queen and ace, and Graham returned a low spade to the queen and king (Paul had played high-low in trumps, suit-preference for spades). Fadia gave up a heart now and Graham ruffed and played the ten of spades. Fadia ruffed and played the ten of hearts to the ace, and ruff with the ten. She discarded a diamond from dummy on the nine of spades, but Paul could ruff and push a diamond honour through to trap the king and collect two tricks for one down and -100; 52% to Paul and Graham..

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Assad	Osbourne	Hassan	Hackett
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	1 ^	Dble	3♠
4♡	All Pass		

Paul's pre-emptive raise put pressure on Assad, who refused to be talked out of a possible game and bid 4%. Graham cashed two spades then switched to the eight of clubs. Double dummy, Paul could have ducked this and the defensive communications would have been open for Graham to get a ruff when he was in with the %A. But of course Paul won the \$A and returned the suit and there was just the %A to come for down one and -50. Three Spades would have made, so E/W had done fine, despite going minus. In fact Paul and Graham scored 54%.



Graham overcalled but then left Assad to declare 1NT, fearing that the vulnerability was not his friend should he bid for a second time.

Graham led the jack of hearts round to the queen, and Assad played the king then jack of spades, both ducked, then led a club and ran it when Graham showed out. Paul thought for some time before returning a diamond, Graham ducking the queen. Assad played a second club and Paul again won and played a diamond, knocking out dummy's ace. Assad led the ten of spades when a club would have been better and would have made the contract. Graham won the spade and cleared the hearts, and when Assad belatedly played on clubs Paul could win and put Graham in with the diamond to win the rest; down one for –50. That was worth 81% to Paul and Graham.

On these 12 boards, Paul and Graham scored 63%. Over the whole session, they did significantly better, scoring 69.43%, and led overall with a two-session average of 65.41%.

RESULTS - OPEN TEAMS

	c/o	R1	R2	R3	ТОТ
EGYPT	0.5	14	24	50	88.5
JORDAN	0	25	12	16	53
	c/o	R1	R2	R3	ТОТ
MOROCCO	0.5	31	19	13	63.5

RESULTS - WOMEN TEAMS

	c/o	R1	R2	R3	ТОТ
TUNISIA	0.5	18	28	26	72.5
PALESTINE	0	15	0	21	36
	c/o	R1	R2	R3	ТОТ
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.5	5	23	55	83.5
EGYPT	0	38	20	13	71



SAUDI ARABIA







RESULTS - PAIRS

Paul Hackett - Graham Osbourne 3129.1 Karim Salama - Jerry Stamatov 3089.9 Ioanna Pollatou - Iasonas Papaspirou 3061 Kazimierz Lichawski - Kazimierz Cios 2921.1 Mona Bamehrez - Vassilis 2914.5 Ahmed Alruwayeh - Mahmoud Zaitoun 2900.4 Yehia El Shazly - Ibrahim El Sebahi 2882.6	% 65.41 64.59 63.98 61.06 60.92 60.63 60.26 59.47 59.47
 Karim Salama - Jerry Stamatov Ioanna Pollatou - Iasonas Papaspirou Kazimierz Lichawski - Kazimierz Cios Mona Bamehrez - Vassilis Ahmed Alruwayeh - Mahmoud Zaitoun 3089.9 3061 2921.1 2914.5 2900.4 	64.59 63.98 61.06 60.92 60.63 60.26 59.47
3 Ioanna Pollatou - Iasonas Papaspirou 3061 4 Kazimierz Lichawski - Kazimierz Cios 2921.1 5 Mona Bamehrez - Vassilis 2914.5 6 Ahmed Alruwayeh - Mahmoud Zaitoun 2900.4	63.98 61.06 60.92 60.63 60.26 59.47
4 Kazimierz Lichawski - Kazimierz Cios 2921.1 5 Mona Bamehrez - Vassilis 2914.5 6 Ahmed Alruwayeh - Mahmoud Zaitoun 2900.4	61.06 60.92 60.63 60.26 59.47
 Mona Bamehrez - Vassilis Ahmed Alruwayeh - Mahmoud Zaitoun 2914.5 2900.4 	60.92 60.63 60.26 59.47
6 Ahmed Alruwayeh - Mahmoud Zaitoun 2900.4	60.63 60.26 59.47
	60.26 59.47
, 19110 21 911021, 191911111 21 9990111	59.47
8 Maria Hindi - Mohamed Magdy 2845.3	
9 Ahmed Samir - Asser Fadaly 2845	J 2.41
10 Hala Abulfaraj - Mohamed Heshmat 2843.5	59.44
11 Mikhalis Somplis - Panayotis Scordas 2835	59.26
12 Mohamed Dewidar - Mohamed Nader 2823	59.01
13 Nermeen Qasim - Humayun Sumar 2811	58.76
14 Yasser Sindi - Mohamed Hammad 2800.8	58.54
15 Hana Kredieh - Khaled Hassan 2792.8	58.38
16 Ghalib Bandesha - Nauman Khalid 2766.6	57.83
17 Timur Edis - Elvan Edis 2756.3	57.62
18 Sven-Gunnar Hallberg - John Holland 2755.9	57.61
19 Nahla Hamdan - Faten Farahat 2717.4	56.8
20 Abdul Hakim Sahab - Bassem Afiouni 2702.3	56.49
21 Fatma Elmanadily - Ahmed Samir Zaky 2658.9	55.58
22 Rose Melanie - Sukha Gupta 2658.4	55.57
23 Rawya Akl - Ahmed Rabie 2651.6	55.43
24 Khaled Al Kattan - Karim Nabil 2630.5	54.99
25 Imran Ali - Shauq Hussein 2602.3	54.4
26 Selvi Skilijian - Baher Ahmed 2600	54.35
27 Aaida Abu Jaber - Sakher Malkawi 2590.7	54.15
28 Ghassan Ghanem - Bahjat Al Majali 2574	53.8
29 Zain Demeshkeih - Salim Traplosi 2551.9	53.34
30 Mariem Bander - Ahmed Harb 2546.1	53.22
31 Hanan El Akkad - Ahmed Omran 2544.1	53.18
32 Hassana Zubi - Hoda Rebeah 2540.2	53.1
33 Mae Hourani - Meraay Azzouz 2502.8	52.32
34 Roula Ebad - Samer Koussa 2502.5	52.31
35 Lina El Masry - George Kachmi 2474.2	51.72
36 Muhammed Akhtar - Minhaj Qidwai 2454.2	51.3
37 May Haddad - Amjad Demeshkeih 2436.1	50.92
38 Wafiga Al Sadat - Mohamed Abdelazim 2434.6	50.89
39 Clement Moaamerbashi - Marwan Ghanem 2431.4	50.82
40 Amal Rahbani - Fayza Al Azm 2429.2	50.78
41 Mona Al Zaben - Ayman Azzam 2422.1	50.63
42 Leila Djait - Nessima Zorgati 2420.5	50.6
43 Ahmed Kattan - Walid El Ahmady 2416.7	50.52
44 Sawsan Al Ebiary - Tamer Abbas 2413.2	50.44
45 Ali Khalifa - Badr Al Refaie 2391.7	49.99
46 Jalila Ghodbhane - Hussam Sallout 2389.6	49.95
47 Hoda Soliman - Dina El Awady 2385.3	49.86

		SCORE	%
48	Hala Malki - Maher Hefni	2383.7	49.83
49	Rita Ghosn - Hany Dagher	2378.2	49.71
50	Fatim Lahlou - Samira Teber	2377	49.69
51	Samira Zomut - Rima Murad	2376.3	49.67
52	Amal Amer - Ahmed Nayer	2373.9	49.62
53	Christina Audiche - Alain Audiche	2366.1	49.46
54	Nuha Batikhy - Ahmed Mansour	2357.8	49.28
55	Mohammed Badawoud - Mohamed Al Azem	2355.7	49.24
56	Raghda Quatly - Khirat Ramadan	2323.5	48.57
57	Daisy Liyan - Loulou Amsih	2315.6	48.4
58	Nawal Tarawneh - Aziz Amer	2285.9	47.78
59	Wafa Nourallah - Walid Masri	2279.3	47.64
60	Doha Adra - Nour Aghs	2272.9	47.51
61	Samia Salfeti - Yasmin Abu Jaber	2271.3	47.48
62	Masood Mazhar - Sapan Desai	2270.8	47.47
63	Hayat Hachimi - Fattouma Berrada	2256.5	47.17
64	Nadia El Araby - Nesrine Hamdy	2254.6	47.13
65	Lili Dalldoul - Nejah Ben Arab	2243.4	46.89
66	Yasser Rahim - Jahangir Ahmed	2224.4	46.5
67	Radwan Attasi - Rashad Shebib	2214.3	46.28
68	Lina Hassan - Walid Assad	2203.1	46.05
69	Ellias Peeran - Mohamed Hammouda	2194.3	45.87
70	Hanan Al Bitar - Nawar Hachem	2189.9	45.78
71	Farid Aita - Kinda Jazzar	2187.3	45.72
72	Suhair Miqdadi - Moaz Hammam	2163.3	45.22
73	Mimi Abu Ghazalah - Endjy El Kateb	2159.2	45.13
74	Fireal Batshon - Aabeda Al Saeh	2156.7	45.08
75	Hussein Adam Ali - Tamer Eissa	2138.4	44.7
76	Rula Batieneh - Obeda Boukhari	2131.3	44.55
77	Mary Argyropoulou - Maria Panoutsakopoulou	2125.6	44.43
78	Sahar Kusbari - Riad Kahlah	2082.9	43.54
79	Hana Wattar - Fahed Al Zamin	2072.7	43.33
80	Nahal Qubean - Asma Halssah	2068.8	43.24
81	Fiuroz Badwan - Fadia Karash	2058.2	43.02
82	Dalia Hashem - Abdelrahman Mosaad	2052.5	42.9
83	Hanan Shaaban - Bassam Shaaban	2022.4	42.28
84	Salem Sabbali - Omar Swayegh	2001.7	41.84
85	Farida Botrous - Sherif Helmy	1993.5	41.67
86	Dora Mlayeh - Oum Elkhair Ameur	1949.6	40.75
87	Afef Oukaci - Abdulaziz Alsogair	1938	40.51
88	Tareg Alyafi - Adnan Mosly	1923.8	40.21
89	Randa Almalki - Mujahed Adnan	1851.4	38.7
90	Rafia Driss - Nefissa Mehiri	1770.7	37.01
91	Abed Almenam Mansour - Faiz Hassan	1722.8	36.01
92	Khawla Abu Hassan - Rabab Shanquti	1665.3	34.81
93	Samar Aqbik - Ahmed El Midfaa	1617.6	33.81
94	Elham Al Saedi - Nisreen Dsouqi	1486.7	31.08