

## 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**

# CHAMPIONS!



Egypt are the new Pan Arab Open Team champions, having defeated Morocco in the final. Congratulations to Mohamed Heshmat, Karim Nabil, Fatma Manadilly, Mohamed Hady, Abdelrahman Mosaad and Ahmed Nayer.

The Women's champions are UAE, who defeated Tunisia in the final. Congratulations to Sawsan Al Ebiary, Marie Hindy, Daisy Liyan, Sukh Gupta, LouLou Amish and Rose Melanie.


The third place play-offs were won by Jordan(Open) and Palestine(Women) respectively.



The Championship Pairs winners are England's Paul Hackett and Graham Osbourne, who were followed by Jerry Stamatov and Karim Salama, and Ioanna Pollatou and Iasonas Papspirou, in second and third. All the top three retained their overnight positions, as indeed did the fourth pair, Kazimierz Lichawski and Kazimierz Cios.

# YESTERDAY'S QUIZ - SOLUTION

Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

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, East following with the three.

This is simply a matter of planning the play all the way to the end before setting out. Say that declarer does the instinctive thing and, thinking to establish the fifth heart, plays ace and ruffs a heart, ace and ruffs a spade, heart ruff, spade ruff, heart ruff, spade ruff. He will be in the wrong hand to draw the last trump. The only way back to hand will be to ruff the established heart winner, and now all that hard work has been wasted and the contract is down to the club finesse.

Think it through and you can spot this danger. The correct play then becomes clear – take a spade ruff BEFORE the first heart ruff. So, win the diamond lead, play ace and ruff a spade, ace and ruff a heart, spade ruff, heart ruff, spade ruff, heart ruff. Now draw the last trump and, if the hearts were four-three, play a club to the ace to cash the long heart. If the hearts were not divided evenly, take the club finesse, combining the two chances.

## TODAY'S QUIZ

Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Six Spades would be an excellent contract on anything but the lead of ace and another trump, as you could play for two diamond ruffs in the dummy. The bad news is that West leads the two of spades to his partner's ace and East returns the four of spades. The good news is that West follows with the ten, so at least the trumps have all been drawn. How will you come to a twelfth trick?

**The answer  
will be published  
tomorrow...**

# OPEN FINAL 1 – EGYPT V MOROCCO

So the final would be between the top two teams from the round robin stage. It would be played over 3 x 10-board sessions.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tarek	Nabi	Bensali	Heshmat
–	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Nayer	Sbili	Moazz	Miri
–	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

As per their agreements, Sbili, for Morocco, simply completed the transfer and was then left to declare 3♠, while Nabi rebid 3NT to deny three or more spades, also ending the auction.

Moazz led a heart against 3♠, Nayer winning the ace and switching to the three of diamonds, which Sbili ducked. Moazz won the queen and continued with a low diamond for the jack and ace and now declarer cashed the king and queen of hearts for two diamond discards. Next, Sbili led the jack of clubs from hand and went up with the king. A club back to the ten was followed by the ace and king of spades and he had nine tricks for +140.

Bensali led the six of hearts against 3NT, Tarek winning the ace and continuing with the four. Nabi put in the ten and was home when that held the trick. He got the club wrong at trick three but had nine tricks – three hearts, three clubs, two spades, and the ace of diamonds; +400 and 6 IMPs to Egypt.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tarek	Nabi	Bensali	Heshmat
–	–	–	4♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Nayer	Sbili	Moazz	Miri
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			


Both N/Ss bid to the spade game, though via quite different auctions which resulted in the contract being played from different sides of the table.

At what we might refer to as the ‘normal’ table, Miri declared 4♠ as South on the lead of the king of clubs. He won dummy’s ace and ran the queen of hearts successfully, led a second heart to his ace, and cashed the three top spades before leading the ten of diamonds and running it. That lost to the queen and Moazz returned the ten of clubs. Miri ruffed and played ace and jack of diamonds, losing to the ♦K and ♠J, so making 10 tricks for +420.

At the other table, Bensali led the jack of clubs against Nabi, who won it, took the heart finesse, played a second heart then the top spades, and led a diamond to the jack and queen. Nabi ruffed the club return and ran the eight of diamonds. That held but the four-two diamond split meant that there was a diamond to be lost, so he too had 10 tricks for +420 and no swing.

Board 4 was flat in 4♥+1 by North.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tarek	Nabi	Bensali	Heshmat
–	2♦	2♠	Dble
3♣	3♠	Pass	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			


West	North	East	South
Nayer	Sbili	Moazz	Miri
–	3♠	4♥	All Pass

Nabi's 2♦ opening was described as weak in a major and the 2♠ overcall as a transfer to hearts with short spades. Tarek's eventual jump to 5♣ shows that he was focussed on the short spades part of that as it suggested some club length. Heshmat doubled 5♣, and that was that. Tarek won the spade lead and ruffed his second spade then played three rounds of hearts, ruffing with the jack. That was over-ruffed and Nabi played the queen of diamonds. Heshmat overtook that to play a club to dummy's ace, and there was just one diamond to be lost, so the contract was down one for –100 and 2 IMPs to Egypt.

Sbili opened a slightly heavy 3♠ and Moazz overcalled 4♥, ending the auction. Miri cashed the ace and king of diamonds then continued with a low diamond on seeing his partner's queen appear on the second trick. Moazz threw dummy's nine of spades, so Sbili got a cheap ruff and returned the ten of spades. Moazz won the ace and crossed to the ace of hearts to ruff his last diamond. The club finesse won but there was a trump to lose, so down one for –50.

When the third diamond was led, declarer could have ruffed with dummy's nine. Not only does this win the trick, but it provides a second dummy entry. Declarer takes the club finesse, cashes the top hearts, then cashes the ace of clubs, bringing down the king. A spade to the ace is followed by a winning club, on which the fourth diamond goes away. There is just a trump to be lost and that is 10 tricks.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tarek	Nabi	Bensali	Heshmat
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Nayer	Sbili	Moazz	Miri
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Dble	Pass
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Heshmat opened a strong NT and Nabi used Texas to transfer to spades at the four level. Tarek led the three of hearts to the jack and ace. Bensali switched to the jack of clubs, Heshmat rising with the ace and cashing the queen of hearts, coming to the ace of spades, and pitching the club loser on the ♥K. He played the nine of clubs next and pitched a diamond when Tarek played low. Heshmat played a spade next, after which he had to lose the ♠K and a diamond, so just made for +420.

Miri also opened 1NT but Sbili transferred at the two level then bid 3♦, which got doubled. When that came back to him he jumped to 4♠ and that concluded the auction. Why bid 3♦? Only Sbili knows.


His partner's double of 3♦ caused Nayer to lead the suit, Miri ducking the seven to Moazz's king. Moazz continued with the jack of diamonds to declarer's queen, and Miri played ace and another spade, Nayer winning the king. A heart to the ace was followed by a third diamond in hope of giving a ruff – Nayer had played his low card at trick two – but Miri could win the ace, draw the last trump, and unblock the heart then take a club pitch on the ♥K; 10 tricks for +420 and no swing.

The unnecessary 3♦ bid had given an opportunity to the defence and, after the diamond lead, the contract could have been beaten in more than one way. Firstly, a club switch at trick two, secondly, a club through

instead of the third diamond, while hearts were still blocked – a lucky escape for Morocco.

Board 7 was everyone's 3NT, played by North, and making with an overtrick for another flat board.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tarek	Nabi	Bensali	Heshmat
1♦	4♠	5♥	5♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Nayer	Sbili	Moazz	Miri
Pass	1♠	2♥	2♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Tarek opened the West hand with 1♦ and Nabi overcalled 4♠, putting a lot of pressure on Bensali, who did very well to find a 5♥ bid on his empty suit. Heshmat felt obliged to bid 5♠ and when that came round to him Bensali doubled.

The king of diamonds was led to dummy's ace, West signalling with the seven. Nabi took the spade finesse, losing to the king. Back came the six of diamonds to the eight, jack and ruff, and Nabi now played a top trump and both defenders showed out. A club to the king was followed by the ten of diamonds, covered and ruffed, and now dummy had a winning diamond – that signal with the seven at trick one was proving to be really costly. So Nabi led a low spade towards the dummy, and suddenly the nine of spades appeared on his left – of course he had known all along that it was still out there somewhere.


If the ♠9 won the trick, East would cash a heart and there would still be a club to come for down two. But had declarer had a dummy entry in spades at this point he would have been able to take his discard on the diamond, concede a club, and claim 11 tricks. And the latter would have been the outcome on this defence had East followed to the second spade. By law, two

tricks had to be transferred to restore equity, and Nabi's contract was made for +650 and 2 IMPs to Egypt.

By contrast, Nayer did not open the West hand and Sbili opened a quiet 1♠. Moazz overcalled and Heshmat made a simple spade raise, and Nayer raised to 4♥. When Sbili now bid 4♠ Nayer thought he was probably saving so doubled, and that ended the auction.

Moazz led ace and another heart, Sbili ruffing. He played ace and another spade, losing to the king, and there was just a club to be lost; 10 tricks for +590.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tarek	Karim	Bensali	Heshmat
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Nayer	Sbili	Moazz	Miri
–	–	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Miri opened 1NT and played there, the contract drifting two off after a spade lead for –200.


Heshmat also opened 1NT but at this table Bensali balanced with 2♠ on the East cards. Karim doubled and Heshmat left it in and led the eight of hearts to the queen and ace. Bensali must have liked his dummy – he could have bought a lot worse for his balance on a weak suit. He played ace and another spade, Heshmat winning the queen and returning a third spade. Bensali won that in the dummy to lead a heart to the jack and king, ruffed the heart return, and ducked a club to Heshmat's king. He won the ace on the club return, ruffed the jack of clubs to hand, and a diamond towards the king established his eighth trick; +670 and 10 IMPs to Morocco.

The last deal saw Morocco's first gain of the set, and it almost cancelled out the modest Egyptian gains earlier in the set. After 10 boards it was Egypt 11 Morocco 10.

# Open F3 – Egypt v Morocco

Going into the final 10-board session of the Open final, Egypt led Morocco by 40-22. Would the team who had dominated the tournament so far be able to keep their strong form going for one more session and take the title?

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Terak	Nayer	Benali	Mosaad
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
2♠	Dble	3♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Heshmat	Bensiad	Nabi	Sbili
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Heshmat made a pre-emptive 3♠ overcall and this was sufficient to silence Bensiad on his left. However, Sbili reopened with a double and now Bensiad could bid his five-card heart suit. With what could prove to be a useful defensive heart holding, Nabi was not tempted to save with only king-doubleton spade, even at this favourable vulnerability.


Nabi led the king of spades, Bensiad winning the ace and playing his club. Nabi grabbed the ace and returned the eight of diamonds to the king and ace. Heshmat cashed the ♦Q then switched to spades, playing the ten. Bensiad ruffed in dummy and took two spade discards on the king and queen of clubs. The queen was ruffed and a diamond came back, ruffed in dummy, and there was now a trump to be lost, so down two for –200.

The auction was livelier in the other room, where Terak only overcalled 2♠, but Banali supported him after Nayer's negative double. Mosaad bid 4♥ then

when 4♠ came round to him, offered a choice of trump suits with 5♣. Of course, that was quickly put back to 5♥, but the partnership were too high now.

Tarek led the six of spades to dummy's ace, and Mosaad cashed the king of hearts then, on seeing the four-zero split, switched his attention to clubs. Banali took the ace and returned a diamond, so Terak won the queen and ace of those then played a spade. That was ruffed in hand then the king and queen of clubs played for two spade discards. Benali could ruff and return a diamond, but the marked heart finesse was taken so Mosaad had nine tricks for –200 and no swing.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Terak	Nayer	Benali	Mosaad
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Heshmat	Bensiad	Nabi	Sbili
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Sbili opened a strong NT on a hand that I consider way too good, with a top heavy 17-count and five-four shape. Bensiad had 15 HCP and a five-card suit, but simply transferred then offered a choice of games, and Sbili made the obvious decision to play in 3NT. He ducked the opening diamond lead, won the continuation, and had 12 tricks for +490.

Mosaad opened 1♣ then jumped in spades before admitting to some heart support. That saw Nayer

ask about key-cards then the queen of trumps, finding his partner with three but not the queen, and he then settled for 6♥.

Six Hearts is of course the wrong slam, with 6NT a far safer spot, but hearts were friendly so the heart slam was also cold. Nayer won the club lead and played ace, king and a third heart, and the three-three break meant 12 tricks for +980 and 10 IMPs to Egypt, increasing their lead to 50-22.

Egypt picked up an overtrick IMP in a borderline spade game on the next deal to lead by 51-22, and on Board 24 both N/Ss competed to 4♦ down two on their five-five fit over a making 3♥ the other way.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Terak	Nayer	Benali	Mosaad
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Heshmat	Bensiad	Nabi	Sbili
–	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Mosaad opened 1♣ and passed the 1NT response. After a heart lead Nayer came to eight tricks for +120.

Sbili opened 1NT and reached the NT game. Heshmat tried the aggressive lead of the ace of clubs but then switched to a low heart on seeing partner's ♣3. The heart went to the queen and ace and Sbili led a spade to the jack followed, or so the record tells us, by a diamond to the ten. A spade to the ten was ducked, but the king of spades was won with the ace and the jack of clubs returned. Sbili won the ♣K, cashed the ♠Q, and exited with a club, eventually coming to nine tricks for +400 and 7 IMPs to Morocco, who needed them at 29-51.

On Board 26 Morocco declared partscores at both tables, 3♣ just making by North for +110, and 3♦-1 by East for -100, so a push.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Terak	Nayer	Benali	Mosaad
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Dble
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Heshmat	Bensiad	Nabi	Sbili
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Heshmat/Nabi quickly found the diamond fit and Nabi showed that he had something in hearts. After an exchange of cuebids Nabi asked about key-cards and bid the small slam. On a spade lead slam requires the heart finesse, but the lead was a trump, and now when the finesse worked it was for the overtrick, the spade having gone away on the clubs; +940.


Terak and Benali also found the diamond fit and sailed into the small slam. Mosaad led the four of hearts so Benali played safe, going up with the ace, drawing trumps and taking a spade pitch on the clubs. He had a heart loser now so scored +920 and lost an IMP, but playing safe surely made sense; 52-29 to Egypt.

On Board 28 Mosaad made 4♥, cold after the opening lead for +620. Meanwhile Sbili played 3NT and made 11 for +660 and 1 IMP to Egypt; 53-29.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

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

♠ -	♠ -
♥ J 9 6 5 2	♥ -
♦ Q J 9 8 5	♦ -
♣ 6 5 4	♣ -

West	North	East	South
<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Bensiad</i>	<i>Nabi</i>	<i>Sbili</i>
-	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♦	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

Two No Trump showed 18-19 balanced and 4♣ four-card spade support. Heshmat asked for key-cards, finding three, then for kings, the response showing one, and he bid the grand slam for +2210. Nicely done.

The grand was missed at the other table but I don't have the auction; +1460 but 13 IMPs to Egypt, whose lead went up to 65-29.

Morocco picked up a consolation game swing on the last deal but Egypt were champions and congratulations to them for their dominant performance over the last five days.



Mohammed Benali



Tariq Sbili



Chaouki Bensaid



Said Sbili




# CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS – SESSION 3

Having watched Paul Hackett and Graham Osbourne during session two and seen them move to the top of the rankings, I thought I would follow the second-placed pair overall, Jerry Stamatov and Karim Salama for part of session three.

Karim found a great lead of the first board of the session.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>El Shazly</i>	<i>Salama</i>	<i>El Sebahi</i>
–	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

El Shazly opened 2NT, 19-21, and El Sebahi asked about majors, 3NT denying either a four- or five-card major.

Karim found the inspired lead of the nine of spades to the ten, queen and ace. El Shazly cashed a top diamond then led the four of hearts towards the queen. Karim went in with the king and played his second spade, and Jerry had five of those to cash plus the ace of clubs; down three for –150 and 87% for Jerry and Karim..

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>El Shazly</i>	<i>Salama</i>	<i>El Sebahi</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1NT	Dble	2♦	All Pass

Jerry opened a strong NT and the double showed a strong hand. Two Diamonds showed diamonds and a major and, as that rated to be spades, Jerry passed. Many would play that this auction was forcing on N/S but that was not the case here, so 2♦ ended the auction.

El Sebahi led the king of hearts then, on sight of dummy's spade holding, switched to a trump. El Shazly won the and played a second diamond, Karim winning the king and playing the king of clubs. El Shazly won that with the ace and returned a third diamond, so Karim won the jack and led a club to the ten, cashed the king, and next cashed the ace and king of spades. He had to lose two spades so was down one for –50 and a 53% board.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Djait</i>	<i>Salama</i>	<i>Zorgati</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Karim got this one wrong, bidding a four-card heart suit in a position where his bid should promise at least five cards, and Jerry, with a weak doubleton in the unbid suit, raised to 4♥. This would have been doomed even with hearts four-three, but the five-two split meant that Karim was down two for –200, losing two trumps, two clubs and a diamond. That was worth 8%.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Salama</i>	<i>Zorgati</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Djait</i>
1♠	2♥	2NT	3♥
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Two No Trump showed a constructive four-card spade raise and 3♠ was Karim's weakest option in the competitive auction. Nonetheless, Jerry guessed to go on to game. Karim had an ideal hand for him. With the diamond inside, there were two clubs and the ace of spades to be lost, but that was all so +620 and 83%.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>	<i>Salama</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>
–	1♦	1♠	Pass
2♣	2♦	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

When Karim bid spades freely for a second time when he didn't have to bid at all, Jerry read him for extra values as well as a sixth spade, so jumped to 3NT. Karim must have wondered whether to insist on playing in a major, but he eventually judged to pass.

Pollatou cashed the ace of diamonds and continued with the jack, Papaspirou discarding the jack of clubs as Jerry won the queen. He led a spade up and Pollatou played the ten. After some thought Jerry called for

the king and, when that held, a second spade. That brought down the queen and ace together and now the best Pollatou could do was to cash the ace of clubs; 10 tricks for +430 and 93%.

That was a blow to the Greek pair, who had come into the session in third place, but the second board brought them back to level for the round.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>	<i>Salama</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>
–	–	1♣	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

When Jerry chose to contest the partscore by showing both minors, Karim misunderstood his intentions. He knew that 2NT was two places to play, but did not appreciate that his partner would have longer diamonds than clubs when facing a 1♣ opening. Hence, 3♥ was an attempt to ask for Jerry's longer suit but Jerry, thinking that his 2NT had denied five clubs, now bid 4♣ and that ended the auction.

The contract was hopeless and drifted three down for -300. Had they managed to get to diamonds, even game would have been possible. As it was, they scored a big fat zero.




Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ 8 6 2		
	♥ 9 5		
	♦ A 6 3		
	♣ A J 7 6 5		
♠ J 9		♠ K 5 4 3	
♥ A Q 7 4 3		♥ K J 6 2	
♦ Q 10 7 4		♦ J 9 8	
♣ 10 4		♣ 9 2	
	♠ A Q 10 7		
	♥ 10 6		
	♦ K 5 2		
	♣ K Q 8 3		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Skilijian</i>	<i>Salama</i>	<i>Ahmed</i>
–	–	–	1♣
1♥	2♣	2NT	3♣
3♥	All Pass		

Karim's 2NT showed a constructive four-card heart raise, so was a bit of a stretch. There were two losers in each side-suit so Jerry was down two for -200 and 17%. Three Clubs would have made, but that was little consolation.


Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ A J		
	♥ A K 10 9 8 4		
	♦ 8		
	♣ K Q 9 3		
♠ 8 5 4		♠ K Q 3 2	
♥ 7 6 5		♥ Q J 3 2	
♦ Q J 5 4		♦ K 6 2	
♣ J 8 7		♣ A 4	
	♠ 10 9 7 6		
	♥ –		
	♦ A 10 9 7 3		
	♣ 10 6 5 2		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Skilijian</i>	<i>Salama</i>	<i>Ahmed</i>
Pass	1♥	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Skilijian was not put off competing by the strong NT overall sitting over her. Two Hearts ended the auction and Karim led the king of spades. Skilijian won the ace, cashed the top hearts, then played the jack of spades, Karim winning the queen and having seen Jerry play high-low in trumps to suggest diamonds rather than clubs, returned a low diamond. Declarer won the ace and took a club pitch on the ten of spades then played the eight of spades. Jerry was ruffing that so Skilijian over-ruffed and played the king of clubs. Karim won that,

cashied his heart winners, and got out with a diamond. Declarer ruffed and had to concede a trick to the jack of clubs at the end; just made for +110, and 88% to E/W.


Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

	♠ 7 6		
	♥ K 10 2		
	♦ 9 5 4 2		
	♣ 9 8 7 4		
♠ J 9 5		♠ K 8 3 2	
♥ A 7 5 4		♥ 6	
♦ K 7 6		♦ A J 10 3	
♣ Q 10 5		♣ A J 3 2	
	♠ A Q 10 4		
	♥ Q J 9 8 3		
	♦ Q 8		
	♣ K 6		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Aita</i>	<i>Salama</i>	<i>Jazzar</i>
–	Pass	1♦	1♥
1NT	All Pass		

The auction was normal enough – North would need another high card to compete in hearts when vulnerable. Aita led the king then ten of hearts, both ducked, then his third heart to the jack and ace.

Jerry looked for a way to give himself a chance to make without running the risk of being down two as, with N/S likely to be making 2♥, the difference between -100 and -200 could be substantial. Accordingly, he had thrown two spades on the hearts and now led his low club to dummy's jack. When Jazzar cashed her two hearts winners, Jerry could now discard a small club and the ace of clubs, leaving himself with an entry to two club winners in hand. Jazzar exited with a club so Jerry won and led a diamond to the ten. That lost to the queen but the primary objective of avoiding a -200 had been achieved. Jazzar cashed the ace of spades and that was down one for -100 but 57%.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Aita</i>	<i>Salama</i>	<i>Jazzar</i>
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♠	1♠	Dble(i)	2♠
All Pass			


(i) Three-card diamond support

With no eight-card fit, Jerry and Karim could not compete further so had to find an awkward defence to 2♠.

Karim cashed the king of clubs, getting a count signal from Jerry, then switched to a low heart. Aita ran that to the jack and played a second heart back to Karim's ace. Karim now tried a low diamond, which went to the two, eight and nine. Aita played ace then ruffed a diamond, and threw his club loser on the king of hearts. He played the queen of spades next so Jerry won the ace and played his fourth diamond, which promoted the eight of spades for Karim. That still meant nine tricks for +140, and E/W were left with 36%.

As is often the case with these messy little hands where there is no suit that can be safely opened up, Karim would probably have done best to switch to a trump at trick two. Both red-suit switches made life easier for declarer.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Hindi</i>	<i>Salama</i>	<i>Magdy</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	2	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

I'm not a fan of the show shape irrespective of strength approach to two-over-one, as I have my doubts about how range is then discovered on some hands. It is fair to say, however, that rebidding that spade suit would not fill me with joy either. Anyway, on this deal, once Karim had responded two-over-one, 3NT was always going to be the final destination, whatever the route to get there.

Magdy led the jack of clubs to the queen and king, and Hindi switched to the jack of diamonds. Karim won the ace and led the eight of clubs to the ten and ace, then cashed the clubs before leading a heart to the king, cashing the king of diamonds, and exiting with ace and another spade. That was won by Magdy, who had come down to king-doubleton to keep diamonds guarded and potentially communications with his partner in hearts. Magdy led the jack of hearts. Hindi won that and had one spade to cash, after which she had to give Karim the last trick with the queen of hearts; contract just made for +400 and an 85% score.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Hindi</i>	<i>Salama</i>	<i>Magdy</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Karim opened a strong NT and Jerry transferred to spades then passed the completion. Magdy led the five of diamonds to the two, jack and ace. Karim played ace and another spade to Magdy's king and Magdy led the nine of diamonds to the ten, queen and king. Karim led a heart to the king and continued with the ten to Magdy's ace. Having worked to set up a defensive diamond winner, Magdy didn't play a third diamond, preferring a club. That went to the jack and king, and first a diamond then a club went away on the hearts, leaving Hindi to just make the queen of spades; 10 tricks for +170 and 52%.

Jerry and Karim seemed to have been a bit up and down over these 12 boards and as I left them to it I didn't fancy their chances of winning the event. I was right, up to a point. They had only scored a little under 55% while I was watching them, but the second half of the session saw them do much better and the full session saw them score 61.79% for an overall three-session score of 63.66%.

That saw them retain the second place with which they had gone into the session. The winners were the overnight leaders

# RESULTS - OPEN TEAMS

	c/o	R1	R2	R3	TOT
EGYPT	0.5	11	29	25	65.5
MOROCCO	0	10	12	17	39

	c/o	R1	TOT
JORDAN	0.5	21	21.5
SAUDI ARABIA	0	4	4

# RESULTS - WOMEN TEAMS

	c/o	R1	R2	R3	TOT
TUNISIA	0.5	26	16	2	44.5
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0	17	47	37	101

	c/o	R1	TOT
PALESTINE	0.5	40	40.5
EGYPT	0	16	16



# RESULTS - PAIRS

		SCORE	%
1	Paul Hackett - Graham Osbourne	4646.8	64.75
2	Karim Salama - Jerry Stamatov	4568	63.66
3	Ioanna Pollatou - Iasonas Papaspirou	4527.8	63.1
4	Kazimierz Lichawski - Kazimierz Cios	4362.3	60.79
5	Hana Kredieh - Khaled Hassan	4353.8	60.67
6	Mona Bamehrez - Vassilis	4253	59.27
7	Sven-Gunnar Hallberg - John Holland	4199.4	58.52
8	Mikhalis Somplis - Panayotis Scordas	4155.7	57.91
9	Ghalib Bandesha - Nauman Khalid	4151.7	57.86
10	Abdul Hakim Sahab - Bassem Afioni	4138.7	57.67
11	Rawya Akl - Ahmed Rabie	4134.9	57.62
12	Yehia El Shazly - Ibrahim El Sebahi	4130.8	57.56
13	Maria Hindi - Mohamed Magdy	4120.3	57.42
14	Timur Edis - Elvan Edis	4062.7	56.61
15	Zain Demeshkeih - Salim Traplosi	4019.1	56.01
16	Mohamed Dewidar - Mohamed Nader	4007.1	55.84
17	Ghassan Ghanem - Bahjat Al Majali	4001.9	55.77
18	Hala Malki - Maher Hefni	3975.4	55.4
19	Selvi Skilijian - Baher Ahmed	3948.1	55.02
20	Nermeen Qasim - Humayun Sumar	3945.1	54.98
21	Hala Abulfaraj - Mohamed Heshmat	3942.4	54.94
22	Aaida Abu Jaber - Sakher Malkawi	3941.9	54.93
23	Imran Ali - Shauq Hussein	3939.6	54.9
24	Ahmed Samir - Asser Fadaly	3907.2	54.45
25	Rose Melanie - Sukha Gupta	3906.4	54.44
26	Ahmed Alruwayeh - Mahmoud Zaitoun	3901.5	54.37
27	Nahla Hamdan - Faten Farahat	3891.5	54.23
28	Mohammed Badawoud - Mohamed Al Azem	3890.7	54.22
29	Fatma Elmanadily - Ahmed Samir Zaky	3885.7	54.15
30	Khaled Al Kattan - Karim Nabil	3879.3	54.06
31	Christina Audiche - Alain Audiche	3861.9	53.82
32	Roula Ebad - Samer Koussa	3846.6	53.6
33	Muhammed Akhtar - Minhaj Qidwai	3821.9	53.26
34	Rita Ghosn - Hany Dagher	3821.9	53.26
35	Hanan El Akkad - Ahmed Omran	3789.3	52.8
36	Ahmed Kattan - Walid El Ahmady	3753.7	52.31
37	Yasser Sindi - Mohamed Hammad	3752.5	52.29
38	Lina El Masry - George Kachmi	3739.4	52.11
39	Nuha Batikhy - Ahmed Mansour	3700.2	51.56
40	Mariam Bander - Ahmed Harb	3693.4	51.47
41	Wafa Nourallah - Walid Masri	3685.8	51.36
42	Hassana Zubi - Hoda Rebeah	3667.7	51.11
43	Yasser Rahim - Jahangir Ahmed	3652.9	50.9
44	Clement Moaamerbashi - Marwan Ghanem	3650.8	50.88
45	Amal Amer - Ahmed Nayer	3636.4	50.67
46	Hoda Soliman - Dina El Awady	3633.3	50.63
47	Sawsan Al Ebiary - Tamer Abbas	3606.6	50.26

		SCORE	%
48	Mona Al Zaben - Ayman Azzam	3586.9	49.99
49	May Haddad - Amjad Demeshkeih	3574	49.8
50	Nadia El Araby - Nesrine Hamdy	3573.3	49.8
51	Nawal Tarawneh - Aziz Amer	3561.7	49.63
52	Lili Dalldoul - Nejah Ben Arab	3558.8	49.59
53	Jalila Ghodbhane - Hussam Sallout	3550.7	49.48
54	Daisy Liyan - Loulou Amsih	3540.1	49.33
55	Ali Khalifa - Badr Al Refaie	3533.1	49.24
56	Masood Mazhar - Sapan Desai	3532.4	49.23
57	Doha Adra - Nour Aghs	3519.3	49.04
58	Samira Zomut - Rima Murad	3494.8	48.7
59	Fatim Lahlou - Samira Teber	3487.5	48.6
60	Hanan Al Bitar - Nawar Hachem	3464	48.27
61	Hussein Adam Ali - Tamer Eissa	3462.3	48.25
62	Mae Hourani - Meraay Azzouz	3457.9	48.19
63	Samia Salfeti - Yasmin Abu Jaber	3457.6	48.18
64	Dalia Hashem - Abdelrahman Mosaad	3451.4	48.1
65	Hayat Hachimi - Fattouma Berrada	3440.8	47.95
66	Amal Rahbani - Fayza Al Azm	3439.1	47.93
67	Wafiga Al Sadat - Mohamed Abdelazim	3427.8	47.77
68	Leila Djait - Nessima Zorgati	3406.8	47.47
69	Raghda Quatly - Khirat Ramadan	3358.1	46.8
70	Salem Sabbali - Omar Swayegh	3344.4	46.6
71	Lina Hassan - Walid Assad	3338.8	46.53
72	Mimi Abu Ghazalah - Endjy El Kateb	3292.3	45.88
73	Sahar Kusbari - Riad Kahlah	3267.6	45.53
74	Farida Botrous - Sherif Helmy	3239.1	45.14
75	Mary Argyropoulou - Maria Panoutsakopoulou	3206.6	44.69
76	Radwan Attasi - Rashad Shebib	3206.3	44.68
77	Suhair Miqdadi - Moaz Hammam	3171.2	44.19
78	Farid Aita - Kinda Jazzar	3152.4	43.93
79	Dora Mlayeh - Oum Elkhair Ameer	3140.3	43.76
80	Ellias Peeran - Mohamed Hammouda	3110.9	43.35
81	Fiuroz Badwan - Fadia Karash	2979.1	41.52
82	Hana Wattar - Fahed Al Zamin	2930.4	40.84
83	Khawla Abu Hassan - Rabab Shanquti	2920.2	40.69
84	Nahal Qubean - Asma Halssah	2907.7	40.52
85	Hanan Shaaban - Bassam Shaaban	2900.5	40.42
86	Rula Batieneh - Obeda Boukhari	2867.5	39.96
87	Afef Oukaci - Abdulaziz Alsogair	2862.2	39.89
88	Randa Almalki - Mujahed Adnan	2852.6	39.75
89	Tareg Alyafi - Adnan Mosly	2839.3	39.57
90	Rafia Driss - Nefissa Mehiri	2800.8	39.03
91	Samar Aqbik - Ahmed El Midfaa	2776.6	38.69
92	Fireal Batshon - Aabeda Al Saeh	2766	38.54
93	Abed Almenam Mansour - Faiz Hassan	2384.4	33.23
94	Elham Al Saedi - Nisreen Dsouqi	2328.9	32.45