

10th Arab Nations Championship

13-17 Nov. 2024

1st Jeddah International Bridge Festival

15-20 Nov. 2024

Bulletin 07

Wednesday, 20 November 2024

Editor: **Brian Senior**

Layout Editor: **Francesca Canali**

Photographer: **Ms. Lenda Qari**

ONE MORE DAY



RANKING

1	RED SEA	78.81
2	HALA	72.87
3	DALIA	68.23
4	GREEK JUNIORS	64.11
5	GHALIB	60.15
6	HACKETT	57.9
7	ITTI	55.1
8	AL HILAL	54.67
9	AL PACHA	52.06
10	HAPPY	51.62
11	AMAR	51.56
12	ZAIN	49
13	COSMO	48.11
14	PHOENIX	44.93
15	JERRY	44.64
16	DXB-POL	44.06
17	AL YASMINE	42.91
18	SAEGY	38.62
19	JOR-PAK	38.56
20	ALL STARS	37.47
21	HANAN	23.35
22	SHINE	20.27

There is just one more day to go in the first Jeddah International Bridge Festival; four more eight-board matches to decide the winners of the Festival Teams. That is three more rounds of Swiss, then the last round played Danish style, which means that first will play second, third play fourth, and so on, irrespective of whether the two teams have already met earlier in the competition.

Overnight the leaders are Team Red Sea, on 78.81 VPs out of 100. Second are Team Hala with 72.87, and Team Dalia comes third on 68.23.


Starting time on Wednesday is 12 noon.

TEAMS 1 – HACKETT V AMAL RAH

The Festival Teams Championship would be played over two days, five x 8-board rounds of Swiss on Tuesday and three x 8-board rounds of Swiss on Wednesday culminating in a ninth round when first would meet second, third meet fourth and so on, whether or not the two teams had already met.

For Round One I watched the English team, Hackett, against Amal Rah.


Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Hala	Holland	Amal
–	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

A simple auction saw Amal declare the heart game on the lead of the jack of spades. She won the ace, cashed the ace and king of spades, then led a spade to the nine. When that held she had a spade discard for one of the club losers and had just to concede one club, so 12 tricks for +480, the same result as in the other room so no swing.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Hala	Holland	Amal
–	–	1♣	1♦
Dble	1♠	2♥	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

Gunnar Hallberg's negative double suggested four-four in the majors so John Holland bid 2♥ in response and Hallberg invited game, quickly declined by Holland.

Amal cashed the ace of diamonds, Holland following with the ten, then switched to the nine of spades. That held the trick, so Amal continued with the seven of spades to Hala's ten, and Hala continued with the ace of spades, on which Holland threw his diamond loser, then the king. This time Holland ruffed with the nine but that was over-ruffed and the jack of clubs returned. Holland won that with the ace and led a heart to the jack, losing to the queen. That was down two for -100, which proved to be the same result as in the other room, so another flat board.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Hala	Holland	Amal
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♥	Dble	4♦
Dble	Pass	Pass	4♥
All Pass			


Hallberg doubled the splinter bid to show diamonds, but he didn't have to have six of them, and Holland was not inclined to go to the five level with his minimum take-out double. Five Diamonds would have been down only one, so a good save, as 4♥ was cold.

Holland cashed the ace of diamonds and switched to the four of spades in response to Hallber's suit-preference seven. Hala ran that, losing to the king, and Hallberg returned the ten of spades. Hala won that, drew trumps, and conceded a club; 10 tricks for +420 and another flat board.

taking a diamond ruff and leading the eight of clubs off the dummy. Hallberg went in with the king and returned the king of hearts so that, when Hala played a second club, he could win and had a heart to cash; 10 tricks for +620.

Hackett and Osbourne missed game at the other table, playing in 3♠+2 for 9 IMPs to Amal Rah.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Hala	Holland	Amal
1♣	1♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Four Spades is a bit of a big bid on the South hand, but I have no doubt that had Amal made a constructive cuebid raise Hala would have accepted the invitation so game would still have been reached.

Holland led the queen of diamonds, Hala winning the king and drawing trumps in two rounds then

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Hala	Holland	Amal
-	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Three-suiters are a curse to describe accurately, and opening 1♦ then rebidding 1NT is as good as anything. Amal rebid her spades, and that was that.

Hallberg led the jack of hearts to the king and ace,



and Holland switched to the king of diamonds. Too late! Amal won the ace and promptly took a diamond pitch on the queen of hearts before taking the spade finesse. Two more rounds of spades showed that there were two losers in that suit but otherwise just one club, and that left Amal with an overtrick for +140.


A diamond lead might have saved the overtrick, but nothing more.

Hackett and Osbourne had a second successive bad result when they got up to 5♣ on the N/S cards, down two for -200 and 8 IMPs to Amal Rah.

With clubs two-two, 6♣ is making despite both major-suit kings being offside. You would want to be in it, because you can afford a trump loser in many scenarios if you can guess which finesse(s) to take.


Neither N/S pair got past 3NT, with HACKETT picking up an IMP for +490 against +460.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Hala	Holland	Amal
-	-	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Hala	Holland	Amal
-	-	-	Pass
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♥
3♣	3♥	Dble	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

Three Hearts would have made, so E/W did well to bid on. Of course they did so because Holland still had hopes of game facing a hand which could



bid 3♣ freely. His double of 3♠ was take-out but its primary job was to see if Hallberg could bid 3NT. When he could not, Holland was content to leave him to play in 4♣.

There are four top losers in 4♣, but it is not automatic to take them. Hala cashed two hearts then, dummy's spade holding looking a little scary, switched to her diamond – after all, partner might hold the ace and this would quickly lead to the defeat of the contract.

The diamond went to the eight, nine and ace, and Hallberg rattled off all the clubs, pitching four spades from dummy. Can you see what happens to the South hand? To keep the diamond guard, South must come down to ♠Jxx and one spade honour. Declarer cashes the queen of diamonds, sees that the suit cannot be cashed, and exits with a spade, forcing South to lead into the ♠K10 at trick 12 to give the contract; +130.

At the other table E/W played 4♠ down three for -300 and 10 IMPs to HACKETT.



West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Hala	Holland	Amal
Pass	Pass	1♣	1NT
All Pass			

I prefer a double myself, but to overcall 1NT with the South hand is hardly a criminal act as it does show both handtype and range in one bid. One No Trump ended the auction.

Hallber led the queen of clubs, which ran to declarer's king. Amal cashed all four spades, throwing the ♣9 from hand as Holland discarded an encouraging ♠9 and Hallberg a heart. Amal continued with the ten of hearts, running it to Hallberg's queen, and now the hand fell apart on her. Hallberg cashed the ten of clubs, put Holland in with a diamond, and Holland cashed three more clubs. The last of those squeezed declarer in the red suits. When she guessed to keep the ace of hearts, that meant that her ♠Q fell under the ace and the six of diamonds won the last trick. That was down two for -100 and, as 1NT was just made at the other table, 5 IMPs to HACKETT.

The final score was 17-16 in favour of Amal Rah.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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




TEAMS 3 – HAPPY V RED SEA

The top table for round 3 featured teams going under the names of Happy and Red Sea.

It seemed natural to end up in 3NT on the N/S hands on this first deal, but the contract stood no chance of being allowed to make.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jahangir	Timur	Yasser	Eldan
–	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	


Eldan's 2♦ response was not game-forcing and the 3♦ rebid suggested an invitational range hand. Though Timur had a misfit for diamonds, he felt that he could not afford to be out of game once bidding one was a possibility.

Yasser led the eight of clubs, Jahangir putting in the queen, which Timur ducked. He ducked again on the ♣J continuation but had to win Jahangir's ten at trick three. A spade to the queen was followed by the king of hearts, ducked, and a second heart to the queen and ace. Yasser tried his low diamond but Timur got that right, promptly calling for the king. He came to hand with a heart to the jack and had two top spades to cash but Yasser had a heart and a spade to take the contract down two for –100.



The contract and result were the same at the other table, so there was no swing.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
Jahangir	Timur	Yasser	Eldan
–	–	Pass	1♠
2♥	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Three No Trump is the place to be, as that will sometimes make when hearts are six-one or clubs three-zero, but it's very tough to get to that contract when holding a five-five club fit and one hand having a void in an unbid suit. Anyway, there was nothing to worry about as Yasser led the seven of hearts to the ace, Timur dropping the king, and Yasser was not ruffing the heart continuation. Timur won the second heart and ran the jack of clubs, just in case, and had 11 tricks for +600.

Again, the contract and result were duplicated at the other table.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
Jahangir	Timur	Yasser	Eldan
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

One No Trump was 12-15, 2♣ Staymanic, and 3♥, the key bid in getting to slam, was a maximum with five hearts. Four Spades was Key-card, 5♦ showed two or five without the ♥Q, and 6♥ the logical conclusion.

Played the other way up, a club lead would have beaten the slam, but played by South either a spade or a diamond lead would let it through immediately – once hearts were coming in without loss, and West could find himself in trouble to give the twelfth trick if he managed to lead a trump to trick one. In practice, Jahangir led a diamond round to the nine, and Eldan drew trumps then claimed 12 tricks for +980.

Slam was not bid at the other table, where the contract was 4♥+2, so 11 IMPs to Red Sea.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
Jahangir	Timur	Yasser	Eldan
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Dble	2♥
All Pass			

E/W can make 2♠ but, though Yasser doubled 1♥ to show interest in the black suits, his lack of a four-card suit in which to compete discouraged Jahangir, who left his opponents to pay 2♥.

Yasser led the king of clubs, which held the trick, and switched to a low spade. Timur ran that so lost to the king, and Jahangir cashed the ace of clubs then switched to a diamond. Timur won that in dummy and played ♥K and heart to the queen and ace, so just lost a heart; nine tricks for +140 and a flat board.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
Jahangir	Timur	Yasser	Eldan
–	1♦	1♥	1♠
Dble	1NT	2♣	3♦
All Pass			

Jahangir's double apparently showed clubs and Yasser was hoping for/expecting more than four, hence his 2♣ bid.

Yasser led ace then nine of clubs, so Timur won the king and led a spade to the jack and ace. Jahangir cashed a club then led a heart through, Timur rising with the ace and cashing the king and queen of trumps. That left one trump outstanding as he now turned to cross-ruffing hearts and spades, and promoted a trick for Jahangir's ♦10 in the process. Timur still had nine tricks, however, for +110, the same contract and result as at the other table.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
Jahangir	Timur	Yasser	Eldan
–	–	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Nobody will ever convince me that it is right for the East hand to not either rebid 2♠ over 1♠ or bid 2♠ over 2♥. Of those options, I much prefer the former. Two Spades would have been an easy contract, probably making with an overtrick. Two Hearts was interesting.

Eldna cashed the ace of diamonds, collecting the jack from Timur, and switched to ace and another spade. Timur won the king and switched to a club, which Yasser won with the ace. He ruffed a club with the jack and threw his other two clubs on the king and queen of diamonds. Next, he played the nine of hearts and, when Timur did not split his honours, ran it. The ♥9 scored so Yasser next ruffed a diamond with the ♥7 and played his third spade. Eldan ruffed with the eight and Timur threw the king of clubs. When Eldan no had to play a club, Timur ruffed with the king but Yasser knew the whole hand by now and under-ruffed, leaving Timur to lead away from the queen of hearts into the ace-ten at trick 12.

The contract was just made for +110, while at the other table N/S declared 2NT down one for -50 but 2 IMPs to Happy.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jahangir</i>	<i>Timur</i>	<i>Yasser</i>	<i>Eldan</i>
–	–	–	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass


Yasser transferred to hearts then offered Jahangir a choice of games, 3NT being the one chosen.

Timur led the five of diamonds to the queen and ace, and Jahangir played the jack of hearts then ducked Timur's queen. Timur tried a club, Eldan's queen again drawing and ace. Jahangir cashed the king of hearts, extracting Timur's safe exit card, then

played the ten of diamonds. Timur won the jack and returned his low spade to yet a third queen from Eldan. Jahangir won the ace and, had he but known it, could have cashed the king to bring down the jack, and that would have been his ninth trick. But how could he know that? He cashed the hearts but squeezed himself in the process in front of the hand with all the potential winners. The contract was one down for -100.

Meanwhile, E/W at the other table had played in 4♥ and managed to bring it home for +620 and 12 IMPs to Red Sea.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jahangir</i>	<i>Timur</i>	<i>Yasser</i>	<i>Eldan</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Eldan led the six of clubs to the two, three and ten. Yasser led a heart to the jack and ace and back came a club to the king and ace. Eldan switched to the ten of spades, Yasser winning in hand with the ace and playing three rounds of hearts to set up his fifth card. This squeezed dummy, Yasser coming down to bare queen of diamonds. Eldan won the fourth heart and returned a spade, which Yasser won with the queen. He cashed the fifth heart, discarding the nine of clubs from the dummy, then led a diamond. Eldan could duck and allow the ♦Q to win, to be followed by three black-suit winners, or could win and lead a diamond back round to the king-ten, as she did in practice, and Yasser would make the last three tricks from diamonds in hand.

The contract was just made for +400, as was also the case at the other table, so a flat board to finish the match, which had been won by Red Sea by 23-2 IMPs.