

10th Arab Nations Championship

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CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Team Red Sea**– Mona Bamehrez, Khaled Kattan, Vassilis, Nikos Delimpaltadakis, Elvan and Timur Edis – the newly crowned Team Champions of the first Jeddah International Bridge Festival. They scored 131.45 VPs out of a possible 180, 16.54 more than second-placed Team Hala. The Greek Juniors took third place

On behalf of all the players, may I say thank you for the magnificent hospitality we have enjoyed here in Jeddah, wish everyone a safe journey home, and I hope to see you all next year.



MVP (Lady) : Mona Bamehrez
MVP (Men) : Vassilis Vroustis




RANKING

1	RED SEA	131.45
2	HALA	114.91
3	GREEK JUNIORS	109.96
4	DALIA	108.39
5	AL PACHA	103.36
6	GHALIB	101.34
7	HACKETT	101.26
8	AL HILAL	99.14
9	COSMO	94
10	PHOENIX	92.82
11	DXB-POL	91.26
12	AMAR	86.2
13	SAEGY	85.64
14	HAPPY	84.75
15	ZAIN	83.17
16	AL YASMINE	79.35
17	ITTI	78.85
18	ALL STARS	75.95
19	HANAN	75.68
20	JERRY	74.78
21	JOR-PAK	64.28
22	SHINE	42.46

TEAMS 6 – RED SEA V DALIA

Day two of the Teams competition comprised three more rounds of Swiss followed by one round of Danish. In Round 6, the overnight leaders, Red Sea, faced third-placed Dalia.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Eldan</i>	<i>Hossem</i>	<i>Timur</i>	<i>Moaz</i>
–	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The natural auction saw Eldan bid an invitational 2NT and Timur raise to game.


Hossem led the three of clubs to the eight, nine and jack, and Eldan played ace and another diamond, losing to Hossem's queen as Moaz pitched and

encouraging spade. Hossem duly returned the seven of spades to the bare king, and found himself back on play with the king of diamonds to play a second spade to his partner's jack. Moaz switched to a club, which Eldan ducked to the king, and a heart through now saw Moaz win the king plus the ace of spades for down two and –200.

The play might have been a lot more interesting had Eldan tackled diamonds differently. Starting with the jack looks better than ace and another, as it picks up Qx, Kx, KQx onside for one loser, as well as being more effective against the actual layout. The contract might still be defeated, but the defence has to be careful.

The result at the other table was 3NT-1 for –100, so that was 3 IMPs to Dalia.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Eldan	Hossem	Timur	Moaz
–	–	1♠	1NT
Dble	All Pass		

Eldan made an aggressive double of the 1NT overcall and Timur was also quite aggressive in leaving it in – with a minimum opening in high-card terms and five-five shape, I would have rebid 2♣.

Eldan led the nine of diamonds, promising the ten, and that ran round to Moaz's jack, Timur's spade discard being a bit of a blow to his partner. Moaz led a spade to the ace followed by the ten of spades to the jack and king, and a third spade to the queen. Seeing no other more attractive play, Timur simply exited with his last spade. Moaz led the two of diamonds to the king followed by a club towards the king, and that was his seventh trick; +180 and 7 IMPs to Dalia as their E/W pair made 3♣ for +110 at the other table.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Eldan	Hossem	Timur	Moaz
–	–	–	1♣
2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Moaz opened 1♣ and, when the weak jump overcall came back to him, couldn't double when holding only a singleton heart, so instead rebid 2NT and Hossem raised him to game.

Eldan led the ten of spades, and Moaz must have been well pleased with the dummy, and in particular with its spade holding. He put up the queen then led a diamond to his jack, which Eldan ducked. She ducked again when Moaz continued with a low diamond to the ten, but of course had to win the third diamond to declarer's king with her ace. Moaz ducked the ♠K returned, just in case, won the next spade and played club honours from hand to set up the two extra tricks he required; just made for +400, the same result as at the other table.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Eldan	Hossem	Timur	Moaz
Pass	Pass	2♥	2♠
All Pass			

Two Hearts was weak with either six hearts or five hearts with an at least four-card minor on the side. Moaz made a simple overcall and played there, making 10 easy tricks for +170 despite the ♠K being offside. I think South should overcall 3♠, which is as strong a bid, not a weak jump overcall, when made over an opposing pre-empt. North would raise that to game.

How about a 3♣ opening with the West hand at favourable vulnerability – or perhaps the king of spades makes the hand too good for a pre-empt? I know a lot of players who would open 3♣, and I'm guessing that this may be what happened at the other table, as South declared 5♠ down one for –100, meaning that missing game was worth +7 IMPs to Hossem/Moaz.

Five Clubs is only down one.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
Eldan	Hossem	Timur	Moaz
–	1♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Hossem opened 1♣ and Moaz didn't bother showing the diamonds, just jumping to 3NT and playing there.

Given an almost blind lead, Eldan led her second-best heart, which looks the normal thing to do. Moaz won that and cashed five diamonds, three more hearts, and two top spades, so 11 tricks in all for +660 and a flat board.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
<i>Eldan</i>	<i>Hossem</i>	<i>Timur</i>	<i>Moaz</i>
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

It was quite pushy of Eldan to make a second game try after Timur had rebid a simple 2♥ facing a constructive cuebid raise. He accepted the second invitation, which was also an aggressive decision, and the combination of optimistic calls meant that a poor game was reached.

Moaz led the six of clubs against 4♥, Timur correctly reading this as being from weakness and that it implied that the ace of diamonds would be offside to explain the non-diamond lead. He rose with the ace of clubs and ruffed a club, crossed to the ace of hearts and ruffed another club, bringing down the king. Timur led a spade to the queen and took a diamond pitch on the queen of clubs, followed by a second diamond pitch on the fifth club which Moaz could ruff. Moaz could cash the queen of hearts then play the ace of diamonds and, though Timur was ruffing those, the ace and jack of spades were poised over the king, so there were two of those to be lost for down one and –50. E/W stopped in 2♥, just making, for Dalia, so they gained another 4 IMPs.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Eldan</i>	<i>Hossem</i>	<i>Timur</i>	<i>Moaz</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

One No Trump was forcing and 4♣ just showed a sound opening hand with four-card heart support.


Hossem led the jack of diamonds to the king, ace and ruff. The hand is quite awkward, with the hand that might eventually have side-suit winners to cash being shortened at trick one and with the defence going to be in a position to shorten it again if declarer plays on trumps at any point.

Eldan played three rounds of spades, ruffing low, then took a second diamond ruff. Next came the ace and king of clubs, and she had won the first seven tricks. Then she erred. She led a fourth, winning, spade, and Hossem ruffed with the five. Eldan discarded dummy's losing club. Moaz thought about the position then came up with the right solution. He over-ruffed his partner then played ace and another heart. Eldan could unblock to allow herself to win in hand and take a diamond pitch on the fifth spade, but Moaz was ruffing that and had a diamond to cash for down one and –50.

Eldan needed to over-ruff the ♥5 with the queen. She can now win three heart tricks by continuing to cross-ruff high. At best Moaz can over-ruff and return a trump, but declarer wins in hand then makes the ♥K and ♥J separately to come to 10 tricks.

This was a big chance missed for Red Sea, as Dalia had played in 3NT-2 for –100 at then other table. Red Sea still picked up 2 IMPs, but it could have been 11 had 4♥ been made.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Eldan</i>	<i>Hossem</i>	<i>Timur</i>	<i>Moaz</i>
1♥	1NT	Dble	All Pass



three clubs and three aces but no hope of a seventh trick so claimed for down one and -100. It was the same contract and result at the other table so there was no swing.


Dalia won the match by 21-2 IMPs, and we had new leaders with three rounds to play.



TEAMS 9 – RED SEA V GREEK JUNIORS

The final round of the Team tournament was played under the Danish system, so first played second, third played fourth, and so on. The position was such that Red Sea would be champions if they could avoid a heavy defeat against the Greek Juniors. If that defeat was heavy enough, their opponents could snatch first place from them, but no other team could do so.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Eldan	Papaspirou	Timur	Pollatou
–	Pass	1NT	Dble
3NT	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

One No Trump was strong, with the double showing a four-card major and longer minor. When Eldan jumped to 3NT, there was no way for Iasonas Papaspirou to know which major his partner held but he felt that there might be a paying save at the favourable vulnerability, so bid 4♥.

Logically, when bid by a passed hand this had to be pass or correct, as Iasonas could not really have a long single-suited heart hand or he would have opened it, but this was uncharted territory and Ioanna Pollatou left it in, Eldan doubled and that concluded the auction.


As it turned out, there were as many tricks to be had in a heart contract as in spades.

Timur led the king of hearts, which was ducked, then switched to ace and another spades, which was possibly not best for the defence. Iasonas won the second spade and gave up a club, Eldan going in with the king and returning a heart. Iasonas won the ace and took a club ruff then played the queen of

spades. Eldan ruffed that and played a low club and Iasonas ruffed that, unblocking the ♠10 from dummy so he could cash his small spade while remaining in hand, and led a diamond up. Thinking that the ace and queen of clubs were the other way around, he put up the king, so lost two diamond tricks and was down three for –500.

Three No Trump could have been made in the other room but in practice was down one for –100 so that was 12 IMPs to Red Sea.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
Eldan	Papaspirou	Timur	Pollatou
–	–	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Eldan led the five of spades and a tired Ioanna failed to play the ten from dummy, instead playing low, and that meant that Timur could also ply low and retain his jack for later. Ioanna won the ace and ducked a club, Eldan winning and returning the two of spades. Timur won the jack and appears to have taken the ♠2 as suit preference – Eldan could have played the eight instead of the two – as he switched to a low diamond rather than the more natural looking ♥J. Ioanna won the eight and played ace and another club, so Eldan was in to cash her three spade winners, and the contract was just made for +90.

Declarer could have made more had she crossed to the ace of diamonds to lead the second club, and now ducked the king to keep Eldan off lead.

Red Sea bid and made 3NT at the other table, so that was another 11 IMPs to them.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
<i>Eldan</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>Timur</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Timur followed an invitational sequence showing long diamonds, and Eldan passed out 3♦, not being interested on what was clearly a misfit hand.

Ioanna cashed the ace and king of clubs then missed the killing heart switch, choosing the five of spades instead. Timur put in the queen, cashed three top diamonds, then repeated the spade finesse and followed that with the ♠A. Iasonas could ruff or not, as he wished, but then had only hearts left so was endplayed, and Timur lost just two clubs, one diamond and one heart; +110.

Three Hearts by North went down one at the other table, for –50 and 2 IMPs to Red Sea.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
<i>Eldan</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>Timur</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
Pass	1♦	2♣	Dble
3♣	Pass	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The Greeks missed their four-four spade fit, which was just as well as it split four-one so there would have been a trump loser.

Eldan led the queen of clubs and timur played an encouraging card. Ioanna won the king and cashed the diamonds, at the end of which Eldan had pitched a spade to keep jack-other club and king-other heart. Four spades came next so that was 10 tricks for +630 and 11 IMPs to Greek Juniors as Red Sea played in 4♦-2 at the other table.

Yes, 3NT could have been defeated had Timur won the ♣A at trick one and switched to a low heart, but that was impossible to find.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
<i>Eldan</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>Timur</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
–	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Three No Trump might very well be defeated after an uncontested auction, as a club lead is likely to appear quite attractive. And, indeed, 3NT was down one at the other table for –100.

Here, Eldan had bid spades so it looked natural for Timur to lead the king of his partner's suit. Iasonas won the ace of spades and played on diamonds. Eldan won the third round and returned the ten of spades. Iasonas won the queen and cashed the king and queen of hearts, discovering the five-one split. He continued by cashing the jack of spades, led the ten of hearts to trap the jack, and had the queen of diamonds in dummy with which to get to the ace of hearts. Eldan had the rest but that came to nine so the Greek Juniors had +630 and +12 IMPs


Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

	West	North	East	South
	Eldan	Papaspirou	Timur	Pollatou
	-	-	1♣	1♥
	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
	Pass	3NT	Dble	All Pass

Ioanna made a filthy weak overcall and Iasonas drove to game, offering a choice by going via a fit-showing cuebid. Ioanna had no enthusiasm for going back to hearts so Timur's sure-thing penalty double ended the auction. He didn't try to do anything clever, simply cashing his five top tricks for down one and -100. As Red Sea stopped in 1NT for +120 at the other table, that was another 6 IMPs to them.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.


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

	West	North	East	South
	Eldan	Papaspirou	Timur	Pollatou
	-	-	-	Pass
	Pass	1♣	2♠	3♣
	All Pass			

The 1♣ opening only promised two cards but 3♣ was the practical bid with the South hand and it bought the contract.

Timur led the jack of spades, Iasonas winning the ace and leading a club to his king and a second club to Eldan's queen. She returned her low diamond and the defence took the ace and king. There was a second club to cash, but that was all; +110. The Greek West played 1NT doubled down one for -100 at the other table, so there was no swing.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

	West	North	East	South
	Eldan	Papaspirou	Timur	Pollatou
	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
	All Pass			

Iasonas opened with a pre-emptive 3♠ and Ioanna raised to game. Timur led the four of diamonds, which Iasonas ran to Eldan's king. She switched to the two of hearts, but that was ruffed. Iasonas drew trumps then finessed against the queen of diamonds and had three diamond tricks so 12 in all for +480.

It was the same result in the other room, so Re Sea had won the match by 31-23 to confirm themselves as Team champions of the first Jeddah International Bridge Festival.

