

African Bridge Federation Zonal Championships

Issue No. 6

Thursday, 11th May 2017

The Final Chance for France



Heidi and Richard Atkinson who have dealt all the boards for these Championships

Fourteen of the fifteen rounds are now completed. In the Open we know the winners and who will be going to Lyon. Egypt are the winners and South Africa are taking the other berth. We have a similar situation in the Seniors and the same result of Egypt finishing ahead of South Africa. The interest is in the Women Championship where there are still three teams vying for a trip to Lyon. The top two, Egypt and South Africa are playing each other and a poor result could let in Morocco for the second ticket to Lyon.

Closing Ceremony 18.30 Thursday 11 May

The closing ceremony will be held in the playing area. There will be welcoming music and a drink for everyone as they enter.

Helen Kruger will be master of ceremonies and will introduce Minister Marais, Minister of Sport and Cultural Affairs. Minister Marais will also present the medals.

Please pay heed to the rules regarding telephones and cigarettes in the playing area, as laid out in the opening bulletin.

Starting Time

Today's Starting Time for the final Round Robin is 10.00 a.m.

Egypt and South Africa in both the Open and Senior Championships have elected not to play their final match.

Today's BBO Schedule







Round 15 South Africa vs. Egypt (W)
Morocco vs. Botswana (W)



Results & Standings






Open Championship

Round 12	Kenya Egypt				Morocco Botswana				S. Africa Reunion			
	23 IMPs	1.00 VPs	77 IMPs	19.00 VPs	32 IMPs	4.23 VPs	59 IMPs	15.77 VPs	31 IMPs	5.61 VPs	50 IMPs	14.39 VPs
Round 13	Egypt Morocco				Reunion Kenya				Botswana S. Africa			
	56 IMPs	17.68 VPs	15 IMPs	2.32 VPs	68 IMPs	19.41 VPs	9 IMPs	0.59 VPs	17 IMPs	2.10 VPs	60 IMPs	17.90 VPs
Round 14	Reunion Egypt				S. Africa Morocco				Botswana Kenya			
	57 IMPs	5.06 VPs	79 IMPs	14.94 VPs	70 IMPs	17.68 VPs	29 IMPs	2.32 VPs	42 IMPs	7.24 VPs	53 IMPs	12.76 VPs

Team	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Total
 Egypt	58.68	53.96	37.01	43.71	51.62		244.98
 S. Africa	43.59	41.84	31.73	39.58	41.19		197.93
 Reunion	36.00	30.02	20.20	16.50	38.86		141.58
 Morocco	32.02	26.98	12.73	25.90	8.87		106.50
 Botswana	5.70	19.05	9.58	22.94	25.11		82.38
 Kenya	4.01	8.15	8.75	26.37	14.35		61.63

Women Championship






Round 12	Botswana Egypt				Morocco BYE				S. Africa Reunion			
	23 IMPs	2.10 VPs	66 IMPs	17.90 VPs		12 VPs		0 VPs	61 IMPs	17.32 VPs	23 IMPs	2.68 VPs
Round 13	Egypt Morocco				Reunion Botswana				BYE S. Africa			
	19 IMPs	10.28 VPs	19 IMPs	9.72 VPs	82 IMPs	20 VPs	8 IMPs	0 VPs		0 VPs		12 VPs
Round 14	Reunion Egypt				S. Africa Morocco				BYE Botswana			
	25 IMPs	0.91 VPs	80 IMPs	19.09 VPs	21 IMPs	10 VPs	21 IMPs	101 VPs		0 VPs		12 VPs

Team	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Total
 Egypt	45.81	35.77	22.78	35.99	47.27		187.62
 S. Africa	38.24	35.26	23.34	35.64	39.32		171.80
 Morocco	34.12	38.40	27.45	32.60	31.72		164.29
 Reunion	35.15	34.57	28.66	32.67	23.59		154.64
 Botswana	2.68	12.00	1.77	19.10	14.10		49.65

All scores subject to official verification

Seniors Championship

Round 12	Kenya Egypt				Tunisia BYE				S. Africa Reunion			
	16 IMPs	0 VPs	85 IMPs	20 VPs		12 VPs		0 VPs	59 IMPs	13.81 VPs	43 IMPs	6.19 VPs
Round 13	Egypt Tunisia				Reunion Kenya				BYE S. Africa			
	65 IMPs	17.06 VPs	29 IMPs	2.94 VPs	23 IMPs	7.47 VPs	33 IMPs	12.53 VPs		0 VPs		12 VPs
Round 14	Reunion Egypt				S. Africa Tunisia				BYE Kenya			
	15 IMPs	0.35 VPs	77 IMPs	19.65 VPs	21 IMPs	0.14 VPs	86 IMPs	19.86 VPs		0 VPs		12 VPs


Team	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Total
 Egypt	48.66	38.20	27.70	15.69	56.71		211.94
 S. Africa	40.00	45.79	25.61	46.38	25.95		183.73
 Tunisia	25.16	23.41	24.30	31.20	34.80		138.87
 Kenya	15.69	27.63	12.53	22.06	23.83		100.74
 Reunion	26.49	19.97	13.86	15.69	14.71		91.72

Today's Schedule

OPEN					
Rnd	Date	Time	Table 1	Table 2	Table 2
15	Thu 11 May	10h00	Egypt v S. Africa	Reunion v Botswana	Morocco v Kenya
WOMEN					
Rnd	Date	Time	Table 1	Table 2	Table 2
15	Thu 11 May	10h00	Egypt v S. Africa	Reunion v BYE	Morocco v Botswana
SENIORS					
Rnd	Date	Time	Table 1	Table 2	Table 2
15	Thu 11 May	10h00	Egypt v S. Africa	Reunion v BYE	Tunisia v Kenya

After the first two matches of the day Reunion had not had a good day, having lost to Egypt in Round 9 and only narrowly beating BYE in Round 10, whereas Morocco had amassed thirty VPs from their first two matches. This left Reunion about fifteen points behind Morocco and needing a win to stay in touch. They got off to a good start on Board 1.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 976 ♥ 765 ♦ A109 ♣ A754		♠ J42 ♥ AJ9 ♦ KJ874 ♣ 109	♠ A53 ♥ 42 ♦ 6532 ♣ QJ86
♠ KQ108 ♥ KQ1083 ♦ Q ♣ K32			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Teber</i>	<i>Hoi</i>	<i>Lahlou</i>	<i>Aouate</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

From the somewhat sparse convention card it appears that 2♣ was probably Drury, whatever its exact meaning it propelled Reunion into game without revealing much to the opposition. West kicked off with a trump won in dummy with the ace and tried a small diamond towards her queen. West now took her ace and now played the ace of clubs, she won a trick but lost the battle as now declarer was home free. West needed to lead a spade to partner's ace to get a club return for two tricks in the suit.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Boyer</i>	<i>Kabbaj</i>	<i>Michaux</i>	<i>Nabil</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
All Pass			


Again we have a very sparse convention card, Two Clubs was again probably Drury with the Two Diamonds response showing a real hand but I do not know why

Three Spades was passed. Might there have been a misunderstanding? I do not know. Declarer was not pushed too hard to bring home her contract, especially when the defence set up a club ruff for her. That was an initial seven IMPs for Reunion.

Board 3 was a comedy errors, both teams played 3NT. When Morocco was declaring the prognostics varied from +1 to -2, finally it finished one down. With the Reunion declarer the commentary breaks down at about trick seven when declarer has no play for nine tricks but the commentary says declarer claimed nine tricks for twelve IMPs.

The following Board 4 was thirteen IMPs back to Morocco when Reunion bid a slam where both the majors broke 3-1 offside and Morocco rested in game.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 642 ♥ AKQJ1082 ♦ 85 ♣ 10		♠ 953 ♥ 63 ♦ 10973 ♣ A974	♠ AK87 ♥ 95 ♦ KJ42 ♣ J65
♠ QJ10 ♥ 74 ♦ AQ6 ♣ KQ832			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Teber</i>	<i>Hoi</i>	<i>Lahlou</i>	<i>Aouate</i>
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass


East has obviously seen West's non-vulnerable pre-empts before, if I raised partner to game with that East hand partner would undoubtedly turn up with queen ten to seven and the king of clubs. West, however, failed to live up to her partner's confidence. The lead was the ten of diamonds, jack, queen and five. South returned the king of clubs which held the trick and so continued the suit, ruffed by declarer, who now cashed several trumps discarding diamonds from dummy thus giving up her legitimate chance of the contract. Perhaps she was hoping to find QJ109 of spades doubleton. You can no doubt see that after the diamond lead South must have the diamond ace and if it is trebleton you can set up the king of diamonds for a spade discard and the contract.

Closed Room

West <i>Boyer</i> 4♥	North <i>Kabbaj</i> All Pass	East <i>Michaux</i>	South <i>Nabil</i>
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A much shorter and sweeter auction. Again North did not find the double dummy lead of a spade but as per the Open Room led the ten of diamonds to jack queen and small. Now at trick two South handed the contract to declarer by cashing the ace of diamonds, not only setting up the tenth trick but giving Reunion 10 IMPs.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ AQ965		♠ KJ8
♥ Q632		♥ 5
♦ QJ8		♦ K1097532
♣ 8		♣ 103
♠ 104		♠ 732
♥ A1084		♥ KJ97
♦ A		♦ 64
♣ AQJ762		♣ K954

Open Room

West <i>Teber</i>	North <i>Hoi</i>	East <i>Lahlou</i>	South <i>Aouate</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♣
3♠	4♥	4♠	5♣
All Pass			

Another demonstration of the power of the double fit. North's Four Hearts bid allows South to bid 5♣ with impunity. East simplified declarer's task by leading her singleton heart. She now simply drew trumps and claimed.

Closed Room

West <i>Boyer</i>	North <i>Kabbaj</i>	East <i>Michaux</i>	South <i>Nabil</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♣
Pass	3♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	


The play record merely states that North led the ace of diamonds and E/W claimed ten tricks. I can only assume North never had the courage to underlead one of his aces to put South in to give him a diamond ruff so that was a double game swing and another fifteen IMPs to Reunion.

Reunion eventually ran out winners 61-24 or 17.19-2.81 in VPs So at the end of the day Reunion were only one and a half VPs from the coveted second spot.

Another Nice Play

Open Round 12

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ J94		♠ 6
♥ Q8632		♥ K4
♦ K962		♦ 1073
♣ Q		♣ AKJ9632
♠ A832		♠ KQ1075
♥ J1097		♥ A5
♦ AQ5		♦ J84
♣ 85		♣ 1074

Open Room

West <i>Stephens</i>	North <i>Brethes</i>	East <i>Donde</i>	South <i>Hamel</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	3♣	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The queen of clubs was led and overtaken by the king and the ace cashed. East made the good shot of a small heart. Should South duck he is home free but he rose with the ace. It looks as though now South cannot establish a heart to discard his diamond loser. Declarer was not without recourse, he exited with a heart to East's king. The club continuation was ruffed in dummy. Two rounds of trumps finishing in dummy were followed by a heart ruff hoping to drop the queen but East showed out. Now South cashed his two trumps and West had to capitulate, he could not part with his heart and so came down to the doubleton king of diamonds so when South now took the diamond finesse the king then dropped under the ace and contract-making trick was the jack of diamonds—nicely played. Six IMPs in as they played in a partscore in the other room.

Women **South Africa vs. Tunisia** **Round Robin 12**

At the start of play the two combatants were more or less in a three-way tie for second position with Morocco. A good win here for either side would propel them up the table and maybe even into first place.

Our first big swing came on sixth board.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ 95		
	♥ 6543		
	♦ Q952		
	♣ A96		
♠ A863		♠ K2	
♥ A10		♥ QJ982	
♦ J84		♦ A103	
♣ KJ42		♣ Q85	
	♠ QJ1074		
	♥ K7		
	♦ K76		
	♣ 1073		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lang</i>	<i>Hoi</i>	<i>Bernstein</i>	<i>Aouate</i>
–	–	1♥	1♠
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the queen of spades and North played the nine. This brought dummy's eight into play as a third stopper. I always teach my beginners not to throw away useful cards. This gave declarer more breathing room as she was not encumbered by the spade suit. She immediately led a club towards dummy's jack which was captured by North's ace. North persisted with a spade taken by dummy's ace and returned to hand with a club. Now a small heart to the ten followed by the ace brought the welcome news of the doubleton heart king and eleven tricks. Declarer was fortunate that the king fell otherwise she would have had problems getting back to hand twice to establish and cash the heart winners. A safer option would have been to play ace of hearts and another prior to cashing the queen of clubs.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Boyer</i>	<i>Bloom</i>	<i>Michaux</i>	<i>Nestordis</i>
–	–	1♥	1♠
Double	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South started with her queen of spades but this time North held onto her 'strong' nine (Monsieur le neuf!) and declarer ducked. South now switched to the six of diamonds, four, nine and ten. Now the ace of hearts and another gave South the lead with her king. South now found the only card in her hand to defeat the contract—the king of diamonds. Now the defence had set up two more diamond tricks and declarer needed to set up a club for her ninth trick but when she tried that North took her ace and her two diamond tricks. Declarer would have succeeded if she had played a club before the hearts. The upshot was thirteen IMPs for South Africa.

The next deal is just a question of what to lead from KQ943 against 3NT.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

	♠ A74		
	♥ 10543		
	♦ 10865		
	♣ 73		
♠ K92		♠ 853	
♥ Q982		♥ AK7	
♦ J7		♦ A2	
♣ Q986		♣ AJ1042	
	♠ QJ106		
	♥ J6		
	♦ KQ943		
	♣ K5		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lang</i>	<i>Hoi</i>	<i>Bernstein</i>	<i>Aouate</i>
–	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led a fourth highest four of diamonds, nine tricks and contract.


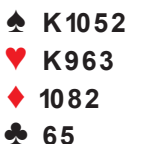
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Boyer</i>	<i>Bloom</i>	<i>Michaux</i>	<i>Nestordis</i>
–	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led the queen of diamonds, contract fails, fourteen IMPs to Reunion.

Reunion struck back.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ J964 ♥ 105 ♦ AJ ♣ AQJ84		♠ 8 ♥ 8742 ♦ Q97643 ♣ 72	♠ AQ73 ♥ AQJ ♦ K5 ♣ K1093
			♠ K1052 ♥ K963 ♦ 1082 ♣ 65

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lang</i>	<i>Hoi</i>	<i>Bernstein</i>	<i>Aouate</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Double	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West led the ace of clubs and continued with the ten of hearts taken by dummy's ace. Two top trumps in dummy were cashed along with the queen of hearts. Declarer came to hand with a top trump played a club and West split her honours for the king in dummy. Next came the jack of hearts overtaken by the king (we saw the ten at trick one) and West fell from grace by ruffing—now she had effectively thrown herself in as whichever minor she led would set up the tenth trick for declarer. She should have held off ruffing and when eventually a diamond is played she takes her ace and draws the opponents' trumps and cashes her master club for one off.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Boyer</i>	<i>Bloom</i>	<i>Michaux</i>	<i>Nestordis</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Double	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West started with the ten of hearts taken by the ace. Declarer then cashed the ace and king of trumps to lead a club towards dummy, West taking her ace and exiting with her last heart. In dummy with the queen of hearts declarer continued the suit overtaking with her king and West ruffed this trick and exited with the queen of clubs to the king. Declarer now ruffed a club in hand. Now the crucial mistake was made, rather than leading her master heart (had she forgotten the nine was master?) she played a diamond, whereupon an alert West went

up with her ace and exited with her trump and dummy had to give her a club at the end for a one trick defeat. Nevertheless a welcome ten IMPs for Reunion.

Board 33. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 1054 ♥ 102 ♦ QJ64 ♣ KQ73		♠ 6 ♥ 965 ♦ AK10985 ♣ 852	♠ AKJ987 ♥ AQJ8 ♦ 732 ♣ —
			♠ Q32 ♥ K743 ♦ — ♣ AJ10964

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lang</i>	<i>Hoi</i>	<i>Bernstein</i>	<i>Aouate</i>
–	1♠	2♦	Double
4♦	4♥	All Pass	

The interference from East and West seemed to discombobulate South and she passed. I must confess that holding so much more than I promised I would venture Five Diamonds—but I can see all four hands. There was nothing to the play.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Boyer</i>	<i>Bloom</i>	<i>Michaux</i>	<i>Nestordis</i>
–	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Transport Options for Airport Departures

Green Apple Tours

Situated in Lobby opposite hairdresser

1-2 Passengers	R400
3 Passengers	R450
4-7 Passengers	R600
8-9 Passengers	R650

Taxi - Caleb LTC - Tel. 079 444 9481


1-4 Passengers	R260
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Seraj - Tel. 072 872 0030

6-7 Passengers	R350
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I was hoping to determine the meaning of the 5NT bid from the convention card but I could find nothing. Declarer took no risks in the play to bring home the slam and eleven IMPs.

Board 35. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ AJ943		♠ —
♥ QJ96		♥ A
♦ K108		♦ AQ652
♣ 9		♣ AKQJ875
	♠ 108752	
	♥ 74	
	♦ J74	
	♣ 643	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lang</i>	<i>Hoi</i>	<i>Bernstein</i>	<i>Aouate</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♥	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	7♣	All Pass

I think the secret to the success of this auction was the Five Diamonds bid. The play was not taxing.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Boyer</i>	<i>Bloom</i>	<i>Michaux</i>	<i>Nestordis</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♥	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	6♣	All Pass

I find the Six Clubs bid a premature articulation—basically all you need from partner for the grand slam is the king of diamonds, surely a softer approach may have uncovered the prize. So that was another thirteen IMPs to South Africa who won the match by 38 IMPs or 17.32-2.68 in VPs to dramatically improve their chances of going to Lyon.

Morocco vs. Egypt


Women

Round Robin 13

Both teams badly wanted a good result but even more wanted to avoid a bad one.

The first hand was not good for Egypt

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

		♠ KJ7
♠ 5		♥ KJ7
♥ Q85432		♦ A974
♦ K8		♣ K85
♣ J1063		
	♠ Q9863	
	♥ —	
	♦ J10532	
	♣ A92	
	♠ A1042	
	♥ A1096	
	♦ Q6	
	♣ Q74	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Homsy</i>	<i>Lahlou</i>	<i>Taymour</i>	<i>Teber</i>
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	3♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	Double	All Pass



Morocco vs. Egypt on vugraph in the Open Room

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.



Morocco vs. Egypt on vugraph in the Closed Room

	♠ J7	
	♥ 875	
	♦ AK76	
	♣ A943	
♠ AK643		♠ 9852
♥ J103		♥ AK96
♦ QJ8		♦ —
♣ 87		♣ KQ652
	♠ Q10	
	♥ Q42	
	♦ 1095432	
	♣ J10	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Homsy</i>	<i>Lahlou</i>	<i>Taymour</i>	<i>Teber</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♥	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

North led the ace of diamonds, ruffed in dummy. A small trump to the ace was followed by a club towards dummy. North took her ace and exited with a trump, declarer gratefully receiving the news that they broke. Two rounds of clubs discarding a diamond and then ruffing a club to establish the fifth for another discard of a heart. Twelve tricks and the slam bonus.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hachimi</i>	<i>Khouri</i>	<i>Hamamsi</i>	<i>Hamdy</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Do you think East's hand is worth a bit more than that?— You have a five loser hand and a ninth trump—what do you need to make an effort? The result was eleven IMPs to Egypt who won the match by a solitary IMP or 10.28-9.72 VPs. Both teams were probably disappointed at not recording a decent win but also relieved at not posting a big loss.

After what can be described as a spirited auction East led a small heart which declarer ruffed in hand. She continued with the queen of trumps, covered by the king and taken with the ace. Declarer persisted with trumps driving out East's jack who continued with a heart and this time dummy's ace was played. A small diamond from dummy brought the king from West who switched to the jack of clubs taken by declarer's ace. She now cashed the eight of spades and in a forlorn hope led a small diamond towards dummy's queen. East rose with her ace and inexplicably led the king of hearts which declarer gratefully ruffed in hand, cashed three diamond tricks and had a trump left in dummy for the tenth trick. At another table this contract failed by four tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hachimi</i>	<i>Khouri</i>	<i>Hamamsi</i>	<i>Hamdy</i>
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

If the Three Hearts is an invitation why does East bid? Fifteen points, 4333 distribution and no great intermediates. I know there is a bonus for game but there is also a penalty for going down. I can see no merit in that eight loser hand. Of course the contract failed by two tricks. Because of the result on the other table it did not cost but it was still ten IMPs to Morocco.

There were virtually no swings, only the occasional one IMP difference. Then:

Well Played Craig or Careless Talk Cost Lives

Board 22 of the Open Match between South Africa and the leaders Egypt featured a fine piece of card reading.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ 98										
	♥ 9										
	♦ AKJ9632										
	♣ QJ5										
♠ K765	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 43
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ K432		♥ J65									
♦ 10		♦ Q75									
♣ 10974		♣ AK863									
	♠ AQJ102										
	♥ AQ1087										
	♦ 84										
	♣ 2										



West	North	East	South
<i>Dagher</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Geddawy</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥*
Double	5♦	Double	All Pass

2♦ game-forcing
4♦ optional keycard
4♥ declined

When East led the ace of clubs and continued with a small heart declarer had a chance. From the bidding and initial trick declarer had a very good idea of the distribution: East had the ace king of clubs and presumably at least three diamonds to the queen for his double, West had showed the king of hearts with his double and presumably the king of spades as well as East had initially passed - the king of spades would have given him twelve points. It is all very well knowing where the cards are but now you have to play them. Watch and wonder as one of England's greatest players used to say.

On the heart switch declarer rose with the ace and continued with the queen, West was forced to cover, otherwise the losing spade goes away, and declarer ruffed. He now played the queen of clubs and now it was East's turn to cover. This was ruffed in dummy. This was the critical point, how to continue with the heart suit. Declarer has two options, he can take a ruffing finesse against the jack or play to drop it from the East hand. The spot cards strongly suggested that East had jack three times as he had played the five then the six, so declarer continued with a small heart ruffed in hand felling the jack, showing how good his analysis was. All that was left was to cash the ace and king of trumps and concede a trick to the queen. The losing spade going away on the established heart winner in dummy. Note declarer's line also works when East starts with four hearts to the jack if the clubs are no worse than 6-3. Also the queen and jack of clubs are mirages, declarer will still bring home the contract if his clubs are three small.

A question for you. Would declarer have made his contract without the opposition's doubles? I think you know the answer to that one—I do.