

Bridge Federation of Asia & Middle East



21st BFAME Championships

08 - 14 December, 2021



Daily Bulletin

Editor: Ron Tacchi

Bulletin 7

Tuesday 14th December 2021

Champions Crowned

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The 21st BFAME trials have come to a fitting climax. We have our champions: **India** in the Open, Women and Mixed Teams and **Pakistan** in the Senior event. It is a tribute to the BFAME council that they have managed to organise an online event for the first time. What choice did we have – in the current health climate it was impossible for us all to meet together to play in our normal spirit of friendship and sportsmanship – so we all came together online and I believe the same spirit was there.



I applaud the NBOs who managed to take on the huge task of organising their teams to play on the RealBridge platform, without RealBridge these trials would have been close to impossible to undertake.

I congratulate all the teams, **India & UAE** in both the Open and Women series, **India and Pakistan** in the Senior series and **India & Jordan** in Mixed series, that have qualified to represent us in the next World Championships, I know they will do our zone proud.

We must not forget to thank all those tireless staff behind the scenes whose effort have made all of this possible. Let us praise all our Tournament Directors: **Ihsan Qadir** (Pakistan), **Sudhir Aggrawal** (India), **Raad Etoom** (Jordan) and **Tarek Abdel Rahman** (Egypt) along with the organisers and monitors at all locations. Sitting in France we had **Ron Tacchi** watching 192 deals every day to produce your bulletin. And the person without whom this project could not have come together and that is your Chief Organiser **Waleed Menyawi**, he has worked ceaselessly here in Jordan and we must not forget the many hours of planning that went into the championships beforehand. There is still one group left to applaud and that is you the players, if you had not turned out and played with the spirit of sportsmanship and determination to overcome the current situation there would have been no event.

Let us hope that the next time we stage these trials we will be meeting as one and embracing each other as the friends we all are.



The **India** Open Team, BFAME Champions and representing BFAME at the World Championships. From left to right: Debrata Majumder, Jaggy B Shivdasani, Keyzac Anklesaria, Debasish Ray NPC, Rajeshwas Tawari, Sandeep Thakral and Sumit Mukherjee

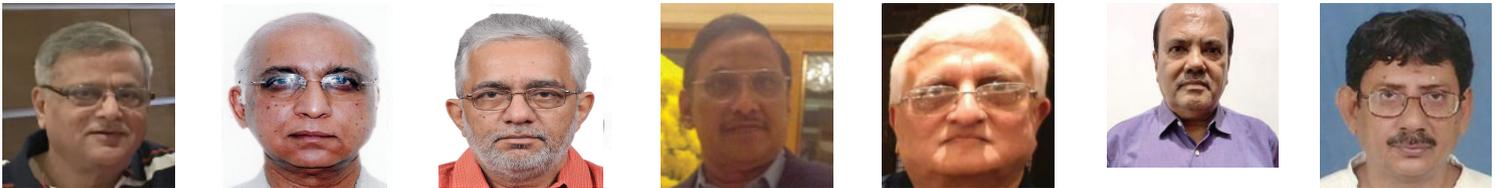


The **Pakistan** Seniors Team, BFAME Champions and representing BFAME at the World Championships. From left to right: Ghaleb Bandesha, Ifti Baqai, Masood Mazhar, Shauq Hussain, Zakir Mahmood and Kamran Ibrahim
Captain





The **UAE** Open Team representing BFAME at the World Championships. From left to right: Abdelrahim Mehelba, Hazem Ghoneim, Hesham Attef, Khaled Hassan, Mohamed Said and Akiel Almadi



The **India** Senior Team representing BFAME at the World Championships. From left to right: Anil P. Padhye, Ashok Kumar Goel, K.R.Venkataraman, R. Krishanan (NPC), Rajesh A. Dalal, Subrata Saha and Sukamal Das

Senior	India vs. Jordan	Semi-final 3
--------	-------------------------	--------------

After two sessions of the semi-final Jordan had a lead of 0.5 IMPs and so this was the segment to watch.

Board 39. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ J109 ♥ 1075 ♦ 107 ♣ KQ874		♠ A3 ♥ K92 ♦ A965 ♣ A652	♠ K752 ♥ J84 ♦ KJ32 ♣ J3
		♠ Q864 ♥ AQ63 ♦ Q84 ♣ 109	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jalil</i>	<i>Das</i>	<i>Abudhaim</i>	<i>Saha</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Redble*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
Redble	Stayman		

East obeyed his partner's suggestion and led his ♣J which held the trick. Declarer took the club continuation and proceeded to take his chances. A small diamond towards the queen was successful and a diamond back brought the ♦10 from West and declarer was obliged to take his ace. Four hearts tricks followed when they generously broke 3-3. A diamond from dummy allowed East to take two diamond tricks but he then had to lead away from his king of spades and so declarer had his ninth trick. Yes he was fortunate but he took advantage of his good fortune and played the right cards in the right order.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Padhye</i>	<i>Ghanem</i>	<i>Dalal</i>	<i>Sharaiha</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

As far as I can tell from the convention card North plays a strong no-trump so I am confused as to why the opening bid was 1♣. Naturally South believed the rebid to be 12-14 and so passed and did not give the chance to his partner to demonstrate his prowess in the game contract. Ten IMPs to India.

Board 43. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 9762 ♥ Q105 ♦ 63 ♣ J842		♠ AK54 ♥ J87 ♦ AQ95 ♣ 93	♠ QJ1083 ♥ AK94 ♦ K82 ♣ 10
		♠ — ♥ 632 ♦ J1074 ♣ AKQ765	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jalil</i>	<i>Das</i>	<i>Abudhaim</i>	<i>Saha</i>
—	—	—	3♣
Pass	Pass	4♣*	Double
4♠	Double	All Pass	

Four Clubs was alerted but not explained—I assume it was major-orientated but I cannot see why he believed his side would have a major suit game available and North very soon showed him the errors of his ways. He lost a club, two trumps and two diamonds for 300 against a possible part-score of Four clubs.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Padhye</i>	<i>Ghanem</i>	<i>Dalal</i>	<i>Sharaiha</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♣
3♠*	Pass	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

North was being ever hopeful with his raise to game but he was not doubled. The defence quickly took their three hearts tricks and awaited patiently for the king of diamonds to take the contract two off. Nine IMPs to India.

Board 44. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	♠ Q98		
	♥ Q7		
	♦ AJ1096		
	♣ 1052		
♠ —		♠ AJ32	
♥ K10942		♥ AJ83	
♦ K87532		♦ Q	
♣ J8		♣ KQ96	
	♠ K107654		
	♥ 65		
	♦ 4		
	♣ A743		



AABL is the first online bridge club at RealBridge in Africa & Middle East.

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ablonline/>

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jalil</i>	<i>Das</i>	<i>Abudhaim</i>	<i>Saha</i>
2♥*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

2♥♥ and any

Declarer held himself to ten tricks when he permitted South to overruff a diamond.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Padhye</i>	<i>Ghanem</i>	<i>Dalal</i>	<i>Sharaiha</i>
Pass	Pass	2♦*	2♠
4♥	4♠	Double	All Pass

2♦ Precision 4414

Might South's 2♠ vulnerable might be just a trifle ambitious. In the play declarer lost two hearts, two diamonds and two trumps. He became trump bound and ended up having to lead them from his hand giving East the jack and 800. Nine more IMPs for India.

India had much the better of the third session and ended leading 112.5- 73. UAE would need a fabulous last session to recover that deficit.

After the first session India had a small lead over the UAE 41.5-30 and so this was the match where there most likely might be a change of leader.

ever it was nine IMPs to India.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ A97652	♠ Q	♠ J103
♥ J9642	♥ 107	♥ AKQ85
♦ K	♦ 632	♦ Q7
♣ 9	♣ KQJ10754	♣ 632
	♠ K84	
	♥ 3	
	♦ AJ109854	
	♣ A8	

♠ K	♠ 62	♠ 94
♥ 98	♥ AQ7652	♥ KJ1043
♦ AK42	♦ QJ5	♦ 10973
♣ AKQ842	♣ J9	♣ 75
	♠ AQJ108753	
	♥ —	
	♦ 86	
	♣ 1063	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hassan</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Said</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
—	—	1♥	2♦
2NT*	3♣	3♥	4♦
4♥	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	6♣	Double	All Pass

2NT 4+♥, 9+

I do not think West or North really hand a handle on what was going on, each rescuing the other from a failing contract Neither seem to have heard of the old saw 'The five-level belongs to the opponents.' Why North should disbelieve his partner I do not know, he lost the obvious three tricks and so finished two off.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mukherjee</i>	<i>Mehilba</i>	<i>Majumder</i>	<i>Ghoneim</i>
—	—	1♥	2♦
4♥	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

A good save by North but again West butts in with a phantom sacrifice but I can understand taking some insurance with that hand, and, of course there is always the time when Five Hearts is a make. How-

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hassan</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Said</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
—	—	—	4♠
5♣	All Pass		

The lead was to South's ace of spades but South switched to a diamond which declarer won and drew trumps. When a heart was played North went up with his ace and led another and now declarer was without resource.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mukherjee</i>	<i>Mehilba</i>	<i>Majumder</i>	<i>Ghoneim</i>
—	—	—	4♠
5♣	All Pass		

Naturally North led a spade to south's ace, the spade continuation was ruffed and trumps drawn in three rounds. West now played the ♥9 and North rose with his ace. This is the crucial moment. North has a complete count on the hand and so should be able to work out what to do. West has one heart, four diamonds and two clubs so if he exits with a heart he can sit back and await his diamond trick but what if he lazily leads a diamond. Declarer will win in hand and cash two more clubs, mercilessly squeezing North, yes you guessed it North played a diamond, another unmakeable contract makes, twelve IMPs to India

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ KJ104 ♥ 108652 ♦ 1082 ♣ 4	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q7 ♥ AKJ93 ♦ 6 ♣ AK973	♠ 2 ♥ Q7 ♦ KQJ3 ♣ QJ10652
♠ A98653 ♥ 4 ♦ A9754 ♣ 8			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hassan	Anklesaria	Said	Tewari
Pass	1♥	2♣	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Double	All Pass		

I suspect West's Double was partly born out of desperation. He knew they needed some good results if they were to have any chance of winning. Things did not go well for the defence. The club lead was won in dummy and the top two hearts cashed, noting the fall of the queen. A spade to the ace and then ace and another diamond ruffed in dummy. The jack of hearts disposed of the penultimate diamond and the last went on the king of clubs. West just made his three trump tricks, 630 to India.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mukherjee	Mehilba	Majumder	Ghoneim
Pass	1♥	2♣	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
Double	All Pass		

Poor old North, he had a difficult bid when 2♠ came round to him and in some respects I admire the 4♠ bid but I also think South had a touch of desperation. Of course the contract was bound to fail but there is a layout whereby South has a chance; if West's hand is ♠KJ4 ♥87652 ♦82 ♣1064 then if West fails to lead a diamond the contract can be made. It was another 14 IMPs to India and by now the match was out of reach for the UAE and they eventually lost 99.5-42.



AABL is the first online bridge club at RealBridge in Africa & Middle East.

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ablonline/>

Open

India, UAE, Jordan & Pakistan

Semi-final

Below I am reporting the two Open Semi-finals. In the left column it will be India vs. Jordan and in the right UAE vs. Pakistan. I shall report on the same set of boards so we can compare the four teams.

India vs Jordan

UAE vs. Pakistan

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p>♠ KQJ1096</p> <p>♥ —</p> <p>♦ K9</p> <p>♣ KJ982</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">N</p> <p style="margin: 0;">W E</p> <p style="margin: 0;">S</p> </div>	<p>♠ A54</p> <p>♥ 8642</p> <p>♦ AQ</p> <p>♣ AQ65</p>	<p>♠ 873</p> <p>♥ 753</p> <p>♦ 10765</p> <p>♣ 1073</p>
--	--	--	--

<p>♠ KQJ1096</p> <p>♥ —</p> <p>♦ K9</p> <p>♣ KJ982</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">N</p> <p style="margin: 0;">W E</p> <p style="margin: 0;">S</p> </div>	<p>♠ A54</p> <p>♥ 8642</p> <p>♦ AQ</p> <p>♣ AQ65</p>	<p>♠ 873</p> <p>♥ 753</p> <p>♦ 10765</p> <p>♣ 1073</p>
--	--	--	--

Open Room

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Malkawi</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Jaber</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
—	4♥	Double	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♣	All Pass		
5♥ strong hand			

West	North	East	South
<i>Mansoor</i>	<i>Madi</i>	<i>Rahim</i>	<i>Hassan</i>
—	1♥	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♦	2♥*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
2♥ good hand with ♠ supp			

Having seen the number of sessions where the first deal is a slam perhaps encouraged West's final bid. It certainly is brave, there is no guarantee that East would hold all three aces, but it seems a fair bet. There was nothing to the play.

Just imagine if West had bid 3♥ rather than 4♠ now you are not staying out of slam and if you can impart the heart void to partner you may well reach the grand slam, but yet again this broken record of unilateral action is playing on the record player. And again we write +510.

Closed Room

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shivdasani</i>	<i>Maamarbachi</i>	<i>Thakral</i>	<i>Nimer</i>
—	1♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♦*	6♦	6♠	All Pass
5♣ cue-bid			
5♦ cue-bid			

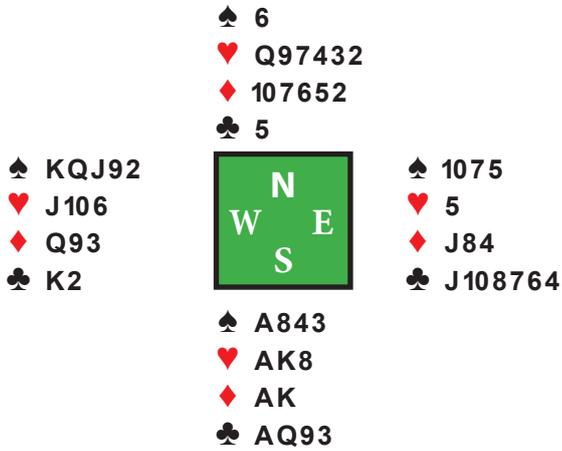
West	North	East	South
<i>Said</i>	<i>Puri</i>	<i>Attef</i>	<i>Mohiuddin</i>
—	1♥	Pass	Pass
2NT*	4♥	5♣	All Pass
2NT high and low suits			

East's problem after his initial Pass is that he is never going to get across to partner how strong he is and West's problem is that he has used up all the bidding space, perhaps some two-suited overcall might have been better. If I had had the East hand I would have risked a 1NT overcall (of course it is much easier to say that with sight of all four hands)

I was surprised at the alert for two reasons, firstly in the protective position 2NT is frequently natural and secondly if it was a Michael's cue-bid it would normally be the minors but even with North's bold interference (he is kept to his six trump tricks if the defence just lead black cards) a makeable contract was reached but unfortunately two overtricks were made. Would West be better off starting with a

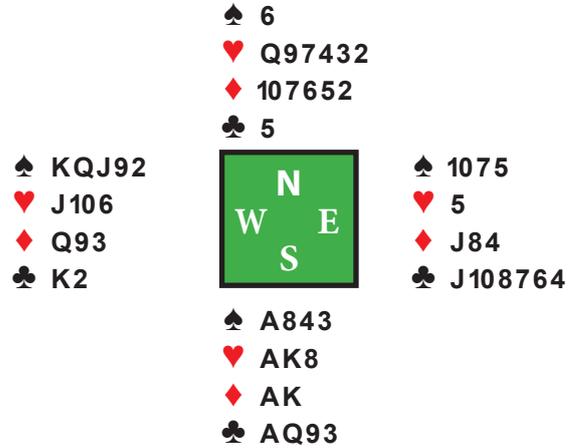
and then the auction might have continued with a transfer to spades followed by a splinter in hearts and then perhaps there was a chance of arriving in the grand slam. Resting in the small slam gave ten IMPs to Jordan.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



Double, it would possibly leave a lot more room to find the best contract and you are only a four-loser hand. At this table it was +440 that written on the scorecard so Pakistan gained two IMPs

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Malkawi</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Jaber</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
–	3♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

North chose the right time for a light pre-empt—some may say wafer-thin but he was unfortunate that South only ventured a small slam when the diamonds broke 3-3. If not the grand slam was unmakeable.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mansoor</i>	<i>Madi</i>	<i>Rahim</i>	<i>Hassan</i>
–	2♥*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♣	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

- 2♥ ♥ and a minor
- 2NT presumably asking for minor
- 4NT 6Ace RKCB
- 5NT Kings?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shivdasani</i>	<i>Maamarbachi</i>	<i>Thakral</i>	<i>Nimer</i>
–	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
2NT 23-24			
3NT fit in ♥			

North was probably transfixed by his lack of points rather than the numerous plus points he held, yet again that ninth trump rears its head and also he has two singletons, surely he worth a 4♣ cue-bid over 3NT. That would probably be enough to encourage South to bid the slam. Not bidding the slam this time gave India eleven IMPs.

I am not quite sure why South employed Blackwood if he was going to bid the grand slam even if partner had no keycards or kings, it would have saved us all time and energy if he had just bid it. Declarer was fortunate in that the diamonds were 3-3, otherwise the contract would have failed.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Said</i>	<i>Puri</i>	<i>Attef</i>	<i>Mohiuddin</i>
–	2♥*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♥

- All Pass
- 2♥ wk 2♥
- 2NT NT stop query
- 3♥ no stop

Not aware of North's magnificent second suit South could not envisage a slam and so settled for game. Difficult to see where the fault, if any lies, but it was fourteen IMPs to UAE.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ AK82 ♥ 1083 ♦ 52 ♣ AKJ7	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ — ♥ KJ7 ♦ K109863 ♣ 10654	♠ J107643 ♥ AQ92 ♦ A ♣ Q9
------------------------------------	---	--------------------------------------	------------------------------------

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ Q95 ♥ 654 ♦ QJ74 ♣ 832	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ — ♥ KJ7 ♦ K109863 ♣ 10654	♠ J107643 ♥ AQ92 ♦ A ♣ Q9
-----------------------------------	---	--------------------------------------	------------------------------------

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Malkawi</i>	<i>Majumber</i>	<i>Jaber</i>	<i>Mukherjee</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

All Pass
2NT natural, GF

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mansoor</i>	<i>Mehilba</i>	<i>Qureshi</i>	<i>Hassan</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

2NT Jacoby
3♦ shortage

What did the 2NT bid promise, especially after the 3♠ continuation, unfortunately the excellent and complete convention card has one small omission of this auction. But again South has taken unilateral action about not investigating further. Yes I know he is close to minimum in points but that ninth (and possibly tenth) trump combined with excellent controls warrant a 4♦ bid over 3♠, now whether North can do more is open to question, but he certainly cannot over a signoff of 4♠.

Another case of the extra trump being promoted to the queen and I also liked the 4♥ cue-bid, he had already shown a singleton and thus a control so the first-round diamond control might well come to light later on. It was probably more important to let partner know about the heart control and with this information North was able to call upon Blackwood and reach the slam.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shivdasani</i>	<i>Maamarbachi</i>	<i>Thakral</i>	<i>Nimer</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

2NT Bergen
3♥ 6♠ minimum

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Puri</i>	<i>Attef</i>	<i>Ghoneim</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

3♣ Jacoby opening+ 4♠
3♦ min with any shortness
3♠ asking
4♦ ♦

There is no version of Bergen I know where there is a response of 2NT. Examining the convention card I believe it means game forcing with four spades. This time it was North who took unilateral action to the detriment of his team. After the 3♥ bid the auction could well have taken the following route 4♣-4♦-4♠-5♥-6♠ and that would have been a substantial gain rather than a push.

I suspect many would have checked on aces before bidding the slam but it is very unlikely that South does not have an ace. At last a push where both teams bid the good slam.

Board 34. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ J732 ♥ — ♦ AQJ72 ♣ Q854	♠ K105 ♥ K108 ♦ 643 ♣ KJ93 <div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 5px auto; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div> ♠ AQ ♥ AQJ765 ♦ K10 ♣ A76	♠ 9864 ♥ 9432 ♦ 985 ♣ 102	
------------------------------------	--	------------------------------------	--

Board 34. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ J732 ♥ — ♦ AQJ72 ♣ Q854	♠ K105 ♥ K108 ♦ 643 ♣ KJ93 <div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 5px auto; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div> ♠ AQ ♥ AQJ765 ♦ K10 ♣ A76	♠ 9864 ♥ 9432 ♦ 985 ♣ 102	
------------------------------------	--	------------------------------------	--

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Malkawi</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Jaber</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Double	Redble	1♠	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mansoor</i>	<i>Mehilba</i>	<i>Rahim</i>	<i>Hassan</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Double	2♦*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

2♦ good ♥ raise
 2♠ trial bid

A continuing theme throughout this article seems to unilateral closing down of the auction as per North here. South has forced you to the five-level, why not show your club control—you are not minimum for your redouble, have some faith in partner. Another board where you write down +710. Yes I know the slam is not 100% but it is not bad odds especially as any minor suit lead will give you the contract.

Unfortunately the 3♣ was not explained. Surely with the South hand you are going to game after the initial positive response. I am sure that the 3♣ bid must have some positive connotation otherwise he would bid 3♥. How can South not make further effort(s) with such a hand.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shivdasani</i>	<i>Maamarbachi</i>	<i>Thakral</i>	<i>Nimer</i>
—	—	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

3♣ puppet
 3♥ 5+♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hassan</i>	<i>Mohiuddin</i>	<i>Said</i>	<i>Puri</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
2♦	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	6♥

All Pass
 4♠ RKCB
 4NT 1 or 4

Again North gives up on a slam and so yet another push.

I assume the 3♦ bid showed heart support and points and now South was on his way. He knew his ♦K was protected from the lead and could safely bid the slam. On the lead of the ♦A all his worries were resolved and Pakistan recorded twelve IMPs.

Board 45. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ 93 ♥ Q4 ♦ J7532 ♣ A963	♠ AKQJ8 ♥ K32 ♦ Q ♣ KJ85 <div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 7 ♥ J109865 ♦ 984 ♣ Q104	♠ 106542 ♥ A7 ♦ AK106 ♣ 72
-----------------------------------	---	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Board 45. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ 93 ♥ Q4 ♦ J7532 ♣ A963	♠ AKQJ8 ♥ K32 ♦ Q ♣ KJ85 <div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 7 ♥ J109865 ♦ 984 ♣ Q104	♠ 106542 ♥ A7 ♦ AK106 ♣ 72
-----------------------------------	---	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Malkawi</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Jaber</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
–	1♠	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♣*
Double	4♦*	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

3♥ limit bid
3NT any splinter
4♣ relay
4♦ ♦

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mansoor</i>	<i>Mehilba</i>	<i>Rahim</i>	<i>Hassan</i>
–	1♠	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

2NT Jacoby
3♦ shortness

Notice South upgraded his fifth trump to the queen which made it even easier for North to bid the slam. A club lead from East presented the contract to declarer.

The third case of the tenth trump being promoted to the queen. Declarer had two chances for success, the ♦J could fall in three rounds or he could guess the clubs, about 60%. The diamonds were not helpful and declarer lost the coin toss of how to play the clubs, unlucky.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shivdasani</i>	<i>Maamarbachi</i>	<i>Thakral</i>	<i>Nimer</i>
–	1♠	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♠

All Pass
2NT 4♠ GF
3♦ strong with a splinter
3♥ ask
3NT short ♦

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hassan</i>	<i>Mohiuddin</i>	<i>Said</i>	<i>Puri</i>
–	1♠	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

3♣ GF 4♠
3♥ extra values with shortage
3♠ where
4♦ ♦
4♥ last train
5♠ 2KC + Q♠

What does it cost South to show his diamond control over 3NT, it must be the ace as you would not show a king when a singleton is known to be opposite. With that information North can virtually underwrite the five-level and can then check to see whether the small slam is viable. Bridge is a partnership game, if you continually make unilateral decisions, you are excluding partner and so you are not functioning as a team. On this board it gave thirteen IMPs to India. After the three sessions India was in the lead 95-50.

The same dilemma faced this declarer but he chose to rise with the ♣K and was rewarded 17 IMPs for Pakistan.

At the end of the first three session of the semi-final UAE had a slender lead of 97.5-85 over UAE.