

Proposed cross imp explanation to members

To introduce some variety for some of our normal club nights the committee have agreed to hold a short trial of cross-imp scoring for pairs events.

These nights will run on the first Monday of each month commencing on September 3rd and then October 1st, November 5th and finishing on December 3rd. Members will then be consulted as to whether they wish these to be continued during 2019.

What is cross-imp scoring?

In normal pairs you receive two matchpoints for achieving a better score on a board than any other pair sitting your way and one if it is the same score as below.

Table	Contract	By	Tricks	NS	EW	N/S Mtchpts	E/W Mtchpts	N/S IMPS	E/W IMPS
1	4H	N	11	450		8	2		
2	3H	N	11	200		3	7		
3	4H	N	10	420		6	4		
4	3H	N	11	200		3	7		
5	4H	N	9		50	0	10		
6	4H*	N	10	590		10	0		

With cross imps your score is compared to the other tables as follows. In this example you are sitting N/S at table 3 scoring 420 for your 4h contract.

So compared to Table 1 you are $420-450 = -30$ As we know from imp scoring in teams that equates to -1imp

Against table 2 you are $420-200 = +220 + 6imps$

Against table 4 you are $420-200 = +220 + 6imps$

Against table 5 you are $420+50 = 470 + 10imps$

Against Table 6 you are $420-590 = -170 - 5imps$

So the final traveller looks like this

Table	Contract	By	Tricks	NS	EW	N/S Mtchpts	E/W Mtchpts	N/S IMPS	E/W IMPS
1	4H	N	11	450				-1	+1
2	3H	N	11	200				+6	-6
3	4H	N	10	420					
4	3H	N	11	200				+6	-6
5	4H	N	9		50			+10	-10
6	4H*	N	10	590				-5	+5

To arrive at your overall score for the board you total your imps and divide by the number of tables (less yours) ie total imps = +16 divided by 5 tables = +3.2 with E/W scoring -3.2.

The overall score for each pair on this board would be as follows ie their gross imps divided by the number of other tables

Pair	N/S Score	E/W Score	N/S Imps	E/W Imps	N/S xImps	E/W ximps
1	450		+20	-20	+4	-4
2	200		-15	+15	-3	+3
3	420		+16	-16	+3.2	-3.2
4	200		-15	+15	-3	+3
5		50	-45	+45	-9	+9
6	590		+39	-39	+7.8	-7.8

So what does this mean for differences in tactics for Matchpoint versus cross imp scoring? This board shows the importance of getting your contract as the overtrick is worth much less than the cost of going off.

With MPs every trick counts as does being in No Trumps against a suit contract as the extra 10 pts can mean the difference between a top and a bottom board. With cross imps it is more important to bid and get your contract especially if a vulnerable game or slam as imp scoring depends on the size of the difference between your score and the tops and bottoms at the other tables. Consequently an extra trick in a part game contract is relatively less important.