

# Tactics and scoring using Cross-IMPS

We have been using Cross-IMP scoring rather than Aggregate scoring at the club for a few months now so it would seem timely to remind everybody who plays on a Monday night (section B) and a Tuesday evening about the bidding and play tactics at the bridge table when this form of scoring is being used. The following points (which also apply to aggregate scoring) should be borne in mind.

- It is important to bid games (especially when vulnerable) and to a slightly lesser extent it is important to bid slams, **but it's not worth risking a contract for overtricks.**
- Deciding between a making NT contract and another (making) contract is not important. For example, you will get the same number of imps for a score of +420 as you would for a score of +430
- It's still often right to try to get as many tricks as possible - don't give up just because you have made your contract, but **don't ever risk going down for the sake of an overtrick.**
- Whatever you do though, make sure you avoid going for a large penalty. Sacrificing and protective bidding are often rather too risky to be worthwhile at cross-IMP scoring.
- Don't get greedy as defenders. If you can defeat the contract by cashing out winners, do so. Don't risk declarer making their contract by trying to get extra tricks in the defence.

**All of the above also applies to aggregate scoring.** It would be a pretty rare to drop a place in the aggregate rankings because you made eight tricks in 2S rather than eight tricks in 2NT – but this could give you a 'zero' for a board in a match point event and that could affect your position!

**So why are we using cross-IMP scoring?** Well there are several advantages to the club and TDs but the chief one is that we can use a larger variety of movements **and** drop rounds in order to finish by 10.30. For example, if we get 10 tables we can comfortably play nine rounds of three boards rather than attempt ten rounds which would be necessary for aggregate. The only other option that keeps aggregate scoring would be to play ten two-board rounds – nobody wants that surely!

Cross-IMP scoring also works well with half-tables and there is no need to worry about limitations of penalties.

**Understanding the result:** The only negative comments we are getting from members is that they don't understand the score that they see on the results screen but I wonder how many people add up their card before leaving the playing room at the end of an aggregate tournament. I would guess very few! Likewise, I also wonder how many people really understand how a match point score is obtained.

**What matters surely** is where you have been placed in the overall ranking list. You will know before you leave the card table that if you have missed several games (or have gone down in making games) you are unlikely to have done well.

### **Do the two methods (aggregate and Cross- IMP) really compare?**

Below you will see a result for Monday 10 July which had eight tables playing a straightforward Mitchell movement of three boards per round. I have used our scoring PC to re-calculate the result using Aggregate rather than cross IMPs, as was done on the night, and these scores are shown as an additional column in the results table. In this instance, it is possible to compare the two methods because no rounds were dropped.

## **New Melville Bridge Club Monday 10 July 17**

North / South	X-IMPS	Aggregate
1 7 Brenda Cullen & Rose Simpson	+42.90	-610
2 2 Maureen McMillan & Liz Henderson	+33.70	-1200
3 3 Peter & Marjorie Gibbens	+11.50	-2240
4 6 Bill Aitken & Keith Clark	+4.80	-2400
5 5 Jack Wilkinson & John Mcevoy	-0.10	-2470
6 8 Edward & Lynette Clutton	-11.20	-2930
7 1 Margaret Tait & Mary Brown	-35.80	-4000
8 4 Peter Wright & Colin McGlashan	-46.20	-4730
East / West	X-IMPS	Aggregate
1 6 Judy Pearson & Jim Fairhurst	+43.20	+4420
2 5 Jean Newport & Pam Thomas	+31.80	+3810
3 3 Celia Nixon & Archie Docherty	+19.00	+3180
4 8 Jimmy Higgins & Norrie O'Neill	+11.90	+2810
<b>5 1 Allan Ainslie &amp; Jim Russell</b>	<b>-21.50</b>	<b>+1760</b>
<b>6 4 Elaine Greenslade &amp; Mike Louch</b>	<b>-23.10</b>	<b>+1840</b>
7 2 Keith Smith & Maureen A McMillan	-27.60	+1430
8 7 Margaret Pollock & Linda Roy	-33.30	+1330

As you can see from the table the overall result is very similar with the only difference occurring between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> places East / West.

Other tests have also shown the results to be identical or very similar. That being said there could be occasions when the top two places are reversed – nothing in life is perfect!

A full explanation of how the computer calculates your cross-IMP scores will be made available on our website at some point for anybody wishing to read it.

Damien