

## Why do the Combined Results differ from Individual Results

Firstly a recap on match point (MP) scoring:

For every board played a pair gets 2 MP's for every pair they beat playing the same direction OR 1 MP for every pair they tie with playing in the same direction.

The total MP's available on the board is 2x the number of times it is played

A pair's score on any board is total MP's won; their rating is the number of MP's won divided by total MP's available on the board expressed as a percentage.

Example

In a 10x table competition a pair sitting E/W beating 5 E/W opponents and drawing with 3 and losing to 2 would earn  $(5 \times 2) + (1 \times 3) = 13$  MP's out of a possible 20 which is 65%.

It follows that if your individual rating is higher than your combined rating on a particular board the combined opponents did less well on average than your club opponents and vice versa.

Example

Club 1 and Club 2 are in a SIMS competition.

Suppose that the members of Club 1 play weak NT but the members of Club 2 play Strong NT. If the optimum contract on a hand is 1NT +1 = 120 by N/S, the auctions may go:

Club 1 : 1NT;P;P;P making +1 = 120

Club 2 : 1S;P;2S;P making but only scoring 110.

If all tables for both clubs achieve the same result then every pair would achieve 50% at club level, but assuming 10 tables at each club, Club 1 N/S would achieve 75% combined  $(10 + 20)/40$ ; Club 2 N/S would achieve 25%.

Club 1 E/W would achieve 25% and Club 2 E/W 75%.