

What is Butler Scoring?

For Butler scoring we need a datum (imagine datum as being your teammates score on each board). To obtain the datum we have to find the average of the scores on a board. Depending on the number of times a board is played we drop scores in order to obtain the average. We drop one of the top and bottom scores with less than 10.5 tables. With 10.5-25 tables we drop two of the top and two of the bottom scores and so on.

Here is a typical traveller:

NS	EW	Contract	By	North/South		IMPS to North/South	IMPS to East/West
				+	-		
1	1	3N +1	N	630		+4	-4
2	2	3N +2	N	660		+5	-5
3	3	3N -2	N		200	-12	+12
4	4	3N =	S	600		+3	-3
5	5	3N +3	N	690		+5	-5
6	6	3N =	S	600		+3	-3
7	7	4H* -4	E	1100		+12	-12
8	8	2N +3	S	210		-7	+7
9	9	3N -2	S		200	-12	+12
10	10	3N +1	N	630		+4	-4

NS DATUM +480, EW DATUM -480

On the traveller above we would drop the +1100 and one of the -200s in order to obtain the datum. We also round the datum up or down so the above (less the one top and one bottom) totals 3820. Divide this by 8 (the average of the scores remaining) gives us 477.50 rounded up makes the Datum +480 for NS and -480 for EW (If the traveller were reversed then the Datum would be -480 for NS and +480 for EW).

Each pair then scores individually with the Datum (just like our teammates) to give our individual IMP score per board. So if you scored +200 as EW on the board above you would score with the NS datum of +480 which gives +680 and therefore +12 IMPs. However if as NS you scored +630 on the board you would score with the EW datum of -480 which gives you a difference of +150 and therefore +4 IMPs.

The general strategy is that of teams; it doesn't matter which game/slam you're in; make your contract; don't worry about over tricks – they are nice though!

Enjoy!

Darren Evetts – July 2011