

## Introduction to Board-A-Match Teams

This document provides an overview of the Board-A-Match Teams format. While the Board-A-Match format is not very common in club events, it is a popular format globally and is used in some of the premier world events (eg the Reisinger). Some consider it to be the purest form of the game.

Board-A-Match is scored with each board considered as a loss, draw or win, and assigned a score accordingly (typically 0, 1 or 2 points). This system flattens the impact of both 'good' and 'bad' boards, eliminating the large swings of IMP scoring. Board-A-Match is effectively matchpoint scoring with each board being played twice and resulting in a top, average or bottom.

As in any teams match one pair from a team sits N-S at one table (their home table) while their team mates sit E-W at the other table (the away table). The scores achieved by the two pairs on a board are compared and points awarded (0, 1 or 2). The points are totalled across the boards of a match and the winner of the match is the team with the highest total score. The final score can also be expressed as a percentage based on the total number of points available across the boards (2 x the number of boards played). There is no conversion to Victory Points in Board-A-Match scoring.

Examples:

|    | Home (N-S) |       | Away (E-W) |       |           |          |
|----|------------|-------|------------|-------|-----------|----------|
| Bd | Contract   | Score | Contract   | Score | Net Score | Result   |
| 1  | 3NT N =    | 400   | 4S N =     | -420  | -20       | 0 (loss) |
| 2  | 3NT N +1   | 630   | 3N N =     | 600   | 30        | 2 (win)  |
| 3  | 3C E -1    | 100   | 3C E -1    | -100  | 0         | 1 (draw) |
| 4  | 4S E =     | -620  | 3S E +1    | 170   | -450      | 0 (loss) |
| 5  | 2NT S =    | 120   | 2H N =     | -110  | 10        | 2 (win)  |

If this were the entire match, it would be a draw with 5 points each out of a possible 10 (50%).

As with all matchpoint scoring the ordering of the scores is all important. The size of the difference between the scores is irrelevant. This means that a +10 point difference is worth as much as an +800 point difference, both are wins worth 2 points. Overtricks matter (board 2 above). Making game in a major is better than making 3NT (board 1 above), but 3NT with an overtrick is better than game in a major (430 versus 420, or 630 versus 620).