Match Point Scoring

The standard club duplicate uses Match Point scoring. Scores are awarded based on relative magnitude of the scores of the competing pairs. At the end of the contest, pairs receive a raw score and a percentage score. Here's how it works:

In our sample contest, there are 6 tables. The NS pairs have numbers 1 through 6. Same for the EW pairs.

On Board #1, the NS pairs achieved the following results:

Team	Contract	Result	NS Score	Match Point Scores
NS #1	3S	made 4	+170	2
NS#2	3S	made 3	+140	1
NS#3	4S	off 1	-50	0
NS#4	4S	made 4	+420	4
NS#5	3NT	made 4	+430	5
NS#6	2NT	made 4	+180	3

The maximum Match Point ("MP") score on every board is one number less than the number of pairs. We have 6 pairs of NS, so the maximum MP score is 5. Because "0" is a score, the 6 scores are 0,1,2,3,4 and 5. The NS that gets the best result gets 5 MPs. In our example, NS#5 got the best result, +430, beating NS#4 by 10 points. NS#5 gets 5 MPs. NS#4 had the second best result, and gets 4 MPs. And so it goes down the line, as you can see in the above display.

What about the EW pairs? Their score are the opposites of the NS scores and their MP awards are calculated the same way

Team	Contract	Result	EW Score	Match Point Scores
EW#1			-170	3
EW#2			-140	4
EW #3			+50	5
EW#4			-420	1
EW#5			-430	0
EW#6			-180	2

The only EW to hgave a positive score is EW#3, to that pair gets 5MPs. The next best score is the pair with the lowest negative number, which is EW#2 with -140. So that pair will get 4MPs. The worst score, i.e., the largest negative score, is -430 by EW#5. So EW#5 gets a 0. And so on.

Note that the number MPs awarded to EW and NS on a single board will always total the maximum MP award. The MPs awarded to NS#1 and EW#1 total 5, as they do for NS#2 and EW#2, NS#3 and EW#3, etc.

Of course, not all boards are so simple that all pairs have different scores. Usually, at least two pairs have the same score. So let's do a Match Point score for one of those boards. The display below has NS and EW scoring in the same display.

On Board #2, the NS pairs achieved the following results:

Team	Contract	Result	NS Score	Match Point Scores		
				NS		EW
NS#1	3D	made 4	130	4.5	EW#1 -130	0.5
NS#2	1NT	made 2	120	2.0	EW#2 -120	3.0
NS#3	1NT	made 2	120	2.0	EW#3 -120	3.0
NS#4	2D	made 4	130	4.5	EW#4 -130	0.5
NS#5	1NT	made 2	120	2.0	EW#5 -120	3.0
NS#6	3NT	made 2	(-) 50	0	EW#6 +50	5

For NS, the top score was 130, shared by NS#1 and NS#4. Therefore, they share the MPs awarded to the two top teams. The top team would get 5 MPs and the second best team would get 4 MPs. The total of 5 + 4 = 9 is shared by the two teams, so each gets 4.5 MPs. The next best score was 120, shared by three teams. The points available for placing 3rd, 4th and 5th are 3 + 2 + 1 = 6. These 6 MPs are divided by 3 (for the 3 teams that tied with 120), so each of these teams gets 2.0 MPs.

As always, the EW scores are the reverse of the NS scores. If NS#1 scored + 130, EW #1 scored (-) 130. And the NS and EW MP scores must always add to 5, the maximum award in a 6-table contest.

How many MPs are awarded on each Board? For a 6-table contest, where the top MP award is 5, the total is 5 + 4 +3 +2 +1 +0 = 15. The NS pairs divide a total of 15 MPs and the EW pairs divide a total of 15MPs. Remember that the maximum MP award is always one less than the number of tables because a zero is awarded for a bottom

score. And if two teams tie for bottom, they share the 0 and MPs that are awarded for the two worst scores, so each gets 0.5 MPs.

At the end of the contest, pairs get a total MP score and then percentage score. The totals MP score is the sum of the MPs awarded for each board. In our example of a 6-table contest, if 24 boards were played, a perfect score would be 24 x 5 = 120. An average score would be 24 x 2.5 = 60.

To calculate the percentage score, divide the actual MP score by the perfect total MP score. A pair that averaged 2.5 on every board would have a total of 60 MPs, which divided by 120 MPs give a percentage of 50%. A pair that averaged 3 MPs per board would have a total 24-board MP score of of 72 and a percentage score of (72/120) of 60%.

Now its your turn. Suppose at our 6-table club duplicate, five NS pairs bid and make 6S. The other NS bids and makes 6NT. Can you calculate the MPs awarded to these six pairs?........Of course you can.

Now suppose that five NS pairs bid 4S and make 6, and the same adventuresome NS bids 6S and makes 6. Can you calculate the MPs awarded to the six pairs? Yes, you can!

Good luck at your next game…………Bill Goldstein