

Bridge Team Strategy

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Sam Dinkin

1. IMPs math

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- What should you do differently at IMPs scoring vs. Matchpoints?

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- What should you do differently at IMPs scoring vs. Matchpoints?

- Bid your games!

Non-vulnerable

- | | | | | |
|---------------|----|------------|---------|-----|
| • 4 Major | = | 420 vs 170 | +6 IMPs | 75% |
| • 4 Major | -1 | -50 vs 140 | -5 IMPs | 25% |
| • 3NT/5 minor | = | 400 vs 150 | +6 IMPs | 75% |
| • 3NT | -1 | -50 vs 120 | -5 IMPs | 25% |
| • 5 minor | -1 | -50 vs 130 | -5 IMPs | 25% |
- +6 to -5 so 45.45% breakeven, e.g. finesse and not a 4-0 break on a particular side

1. IMPs math

- What should you do differently at IMPs scoring vs. Matchpoints?

- Bid your games!
- Especially vulnerable!

• 4 Major	=	650 vs 170	+10 IMPs	75%
• 4 Major	-1	-100 vs 140	-6 IMPs	25%
• 3NT/5 minor	=	600 vs 150	+10 IMPs	75%
• 3NT	-1	-100 vs 120	-6 IMPs	25%
• 5 minor	-1	-100 vs 130	-6 IMPs	25%
• 37.5% break even				

1. IMPs math

- What should you do differently at IMPs scoring vs. Matchpoints?
 - Bid your games!
 - Especially vulnerable!
 - Defense is hard!

HOME

DIAGRAM

SPLIT

W

N

E

S

3♣*

PASS

3♦

PASS

3NT

PASS

PASS

PASS

1NT

PASS

Table: CL 1, Round: 1

N-S: Dinkin
0 IMP

E-W: Cappelletti
1 IMP

OTHER ROOM

E 3N +1 -430

Other table >

NORTH

WEST

2

DEALER

SOUTH

Score card >

Frequency >

Standings >

LoveBridge

7

6

4

A

2

10

9

6

3

A

7

4

3

W Mike Cappelletti

DDS

- Mike Cappelletti held the West hand on the second board of the first round of the USBF Mixed Trials, May 2023
- Allison Cappelletti opened a 14-17 NT
- While non-vulnerable at IMPs, he hopes to pick up a game swing because defense is hard; and forces game opposite Allison's NT opener (bidding 5 card stayman)
- Defense turned out to be impossible double dummy with East declaring
- Allison did have a maximum
- Nevertheless, 3 of 10 EW pairs missed game

W	N	E	S
		1NT	PASS
3♣	PASS	3♦	PASS
3NT	PASS	PASS	PASS

Table: CL 1, Round: 1
 N-S: Dinkin
 0 IMP
 E-W: Cappelletti
 1 IMP

OTHER ROOM
 E 3N +1 -430

Other table >

NORTH

WEST 2 DEALER

SOUTH

Score card >

Frequency >

Standings >

←

LoveBridge

7♠

6♠

4♠

A♥

2♥

10♣

9♣

6♣

3♣

A♦

7♦

4♦

3♦

W Mike Cappelletti

J♠

5♠

3♠

2♠

9♥

5♥

4♥

3♥

Q♣

7♣

8♦

5♦

2♦

N Olivia Schireson

2♦

A♠

Q♠

9♠

K♥

10♥

6♥

J♣

5♣

K♦

Q♦

J♦

10♦

9♦

E Allison Cappelletti

K♠

10♠

8♠

Q♥

J♥

8♥

7♥

A♣

K♣

8♣

4♣

2♣

6♦

S Sam Dinkin

9♦

EAST

3NT

NS

0

EW

0

1. IMPs math

- What should you do differently at IMPs scoring vs. Matchpoints?

- Bid your games!
- Especially vulnerable!
- Defense is hard!
- Bid your slams?

• 6 Major	=	980	+11
• 6 Major	-1	-50	-11
• 4 Major	+2	480	-11
• 4 Major	+1	450	+11

- NV about the same as matchpoints, but if less than half the field bids them...

- After Jenny Wolpert leads the ♣K, the slam is now a bit better than 50-50 to guess whether to finesse West or East for the ♠K
- After testing hearts and finding them 3-1, Mike Cappelletti finessees West for the king of spades and goes down 1
- Since slam can fail if there is a singleton diamond on lead, it is less than 50-50 single dummy vs. perfect defense. But another way to look at it, is that if the opponents lead a suit other than clubs, slam is a heavy favorite
- The main point though, is all nine other tables did not bid slam

LoveBridge

N Mike Cappelletti

W Shan Huang

E Jenny Wolpert

S Allison Cappelletti

DDS

NORTH 6♥ **NS** 0 **EW** 0

Hand 1 (North): A♥ Q♥ 10♥ 8♥ A♠ Q♠ J♠ 9♠ Q♦ 5♦ 3♦ A♣ 9♣

Hand 2 (West): 4♥ 10♠ 8♠ 7♠ 4♠ 3♠ 9♦ 8♦ 7♣ 6♣ 4♣ 3♣ 2♣

Hand 3 (East): 7♥ 6♥ 5♥ K♠ 6♠ 2♠ A♦ 10♦ 4♦ K♣ Q♣ J♣ 5♣

Hand 4 (South): K♥ J♥ 9♥ 3♥ 2♥ 5♠ K♦ J♦ 7♦ 6♦ 2♦ 10♣ 8♣

Score: 6♥ 0 0

1. IMPs math

- What should you do differently at IMPs scoring vs. Matchpoints?
 - Bid your games!
 - Especially vulnerable!
 - Defense is hard!
 - Bid your slams?
 - How about vulnerable?
 - About the same as NV

• 6 Major	=	1430	+13
• 6 Major	-1	-100	-13
• 4 Major	+2	680	-13
• 4 Major	+1	650	+13
 - NV about the same as matchpoints, but if less than half the field bids them...
 - Grand slams?
 - "Teamies, the small slam would have been enough."

2. Team Dynamics

2. Team Dynamics

- Logistics

2. Team Dynamics

- Logistics
 - Supplies at the table
 - Qualifying
 - Arriving at the event(s)
 - Systems/disclosure
 - Collegiality
 - Food
 - Entry
 - Travel booking
 - Team formation
 - Medication: morphine, covid meds, masks, ministering ill
 - Hospital/Jail
 - Fill ins/replacements

2. Team Dynamics

- Logistics
- Captaining

2. Team Dynamics

- Logistics
- Captaining
 - Getting lineups in
 - Getting scores in
 - Leading the team
 - Lobbying directors/technical staff/support staff
 - Getting rules changes between tournaments
 - Appeals
 - Public relations such as media contact or bridgewinners posts
 - Facilities
 - Group therapy
 - Appeals and other bridge justice system
 - Kibitz the pair that bickers without a kibitzer

2. Team Dynamics

- Logistics
- Captaining
- Personal/interpersonal issues

2. Team Dynamics

- Logistics
- Captaining
- Personal/interpersonal issues
 - Career advice
 - Phantom of the opera
 - battleaxe veteran vs. ingenue
 - Decorum at comparison
 - Dancing with the one who brung ya
 - Table dynamics

3. Long match dynamics

3. Long match dynamics

- Preparation

3. Long match dynamics

- Preparation
 - Team formation
 - Partnership practice
 - Version control
 - Standardized drilling
 - Mix of in-person and online
 - Team practice/gelling
 - Coaching
 - NPC?
 - Funding
 - Scouting/recruitment
 - Team uniforms!

3. Long match dynamics

- Preparation
- Long match strategy

3. Long match dynamics

- Preparation
- Long match strategy
 - Stay the course
 - Or swing

HOME

DIAGRAM

SPLIT

W

N

E

S

1♦

PASS

1NT

PASS

2♣

PASS

2NT

PASS

4♦

PASS

4NT

PASS

7♠

PASS

7NT

PASS

Table: OP 3, Round: 5

N-S: Lewis

190 IMP

E-W: Dinkin

158 IMP

OTHER ROOM

E 6N = -990

Other table >

NORTH

WEST 11 EAST

DEALER

Score card >

Frequency >

Final score >

LoveBridge

A

Q

J

6

4

3

9

♥

A

K

Q

7

2

3

♦

W

Sam Dinkin

DDS

USA2 Mixed QF

- -40 imps with 30 boards to play
- Opps pass throughout

1♦ (15+ Art.)

2♣ (Relay, tell me more...)

4♦ (Art. Slam Inv. Spades)

7♠

1NT (GF 4+♥)

2NT (4♥ 5+♦ 2 suits)

4NT (like w/3 KC)

7NT

HOME

DIAGRAM

SPLIT

DDS

W	N	E	S
			PASS
1♦	PASS	1NT	PASS
2♣	PASS	2NT	PASS
4♦	PASS	4NT	PASS
7♠	PASS	7NT	PASS

Table: OP 3, Round: 5

N-S: Lewis
190 IMP

E-W: Dinkin
158 IMP

OTHER ROOM
E 6N = -990

Other table >

NORTH
WEST11EAST
DEALER

Score card >

Frequency >

Final score >

LoveBridge

752K87J84K862

♠♠♠♥♥♥♣♣♣♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

N Paul Lewis

AQJ643

♠♠♠♠♠♠

9

♥

A

K

Q

7

2

♣♣♣♣♣

3

♦

♠

♣

W Sam Dinkin

1098J1043296554

♠♠♠♥♥♥♥♥♣♣♣♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

S Linda Lewis

K

A

Q

6

5

♥♥♥♥♥

10

3

♣♣

A

Q

J

10

9

7

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

E Olivia Schireson

DDS

EAST
7NT

NS
0

EW
0

3. Long match dynamics

- Preparation
- Long match strategy
 - Stay the course
 - Or swing
 - How to neutralize swinging if you are ahead?
 - If you are up X imps, plays as if you are down $X/2$ imps

USA2 Mixed SF

- +48imps with 30 boards to play
- Opps pass throughout

1♦ (15+ Art.) 3♣ (GF 5+♦ 1 suit 0-2♥)

3♠ (Art. Slam Inv ♦) 4♦ (like w/3 KC)

6♦

NORTH
WEST 39 EAST
DEALER

Score card >

Frequency >

Final score >

DDS

Q 7 4 A K 10 8 K 10 9 7 K 3

♠

♠

♠

♠

♠

♠

♠

♠

♠

♠

♠

♠

S

Sam Dinkin

♣

♣

SOUTH
6♦

NS
0

EW
0

<<

<

>

>>

↺

W	N	E	S
			1♦
PASS	3♣	PASS	3♠
PASS	4♦	PASS	6♦
PASS	PASS	PASS	

Table: OP 3, Round: 5

N-S: Dinkin

199 IMP

E-W: Wildavsky

148 IMP

OTHER ROOM

S 3N +2 660

Other table >

NORTH
 WEST 39 EAST
 DEALER

Score card >

Frequency >

Final score >



A♦ K♦ 8♦ 6♦ 2♦ J♠ 4♠ 3♠ 6♥ 5♥ A♣ Q♣ 5♣
 N Olivia Schireson

J♦ 10♦ 9♦
 Q♠ 9♠ 7♠ 6♠ 2♠
 A♥ J♥ 8♥
 J♣ 9♣
 W May Sakr



5♦ 3♦
 5♠
 Q♥ 4♥ 3♥ 2♥
 10♣ 8♣ 7♣ 6♣ 4♣ 2♣
 E Jacek Pszczola

Q♦ 7♦ 4♦ A♠ K♠ 10♠ 8♠ K♥ 10♥ 9♥ 7♥ K♣ 3♣
 S Sam Dinkin

DDS

SOUTH
 6♦ NS 0 EW 0

- Led ♥A, ♥8
- 3 rounds ♦
- Test ♠ one rd
- Now see if ♥J is onside
- +12

LoveBridge

N Olivia Schireson

E Jacek Pszczola

S Sam Dinkin

W May Sakr

DDS

SOUTH 6♦ NS 0 EW 0

3. Long match dynamics

- Preparation
- Long match strategy
- Selecting who is in at crunch time

3. Long match dynamics

- Preparation
- Long match strategy
- Selecting who is in at crunch time
 - Going ineligible temporarily
 - Holding on to a declining lead
 - System and style vs. opposing pairs system and style

3. Long match dynamics

- Preparation
- Long match strategy
- Selecting who is in at crunch time
- Keeping the band together for the next big match
 - Do not destroy players or partnerships