

## **BUTLER SCORED SESSIONS – FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH**

As an experiment, starting in June 2012, we will be scoring the first Monday session in each month using Butler scoring, as opposed to matchpoint.

The movements will be normal Mitchells, and there is nothing different about entering the result to the Bridgemates.

The difference is how it's scored at the end of the day. Butler scoring is imp-based, and is very similar to the scoring method used in Teams events. In Butler, it's like the room average is the other half of your team.

Under matchpoint scoring, the best score on a board is a top and the second best score is a second, and matchpoints are awarded on that basis – a second top is very close to a top. If you make 6NT for 1440 for a top, and the next best was 3NT for 690, second place is only a fraction behind first.

Using Butler scoring, the **value** of the score is important, so using the same example, the pair earning 1440 has done a lot better than the next best who earned only 690.

Because the **value** of the score is important under Butler, bidding games is important, because making +620 is so much better than making +170. Also, an overtrick is of much less value in Butler than in matchpoint – the imp-based score for 620 is very similar to 650.

As with any scoring method, good play (and of course good luck) are rewarded, but remember, if in doubt, bid your games, and don't risk making your contract for an overtrick.