

Named after Geoffrey Butler, a former president of the now-defunct British Bridge League who devised the method as a means of scoring British international trials.

Your score on any particular board is compared to a 'datum', usually established by discarding the top two and bottom two scores achieved across the field on the board, and averaging the remaining scores. The difference between your score and the datum is converted to IMPs plus or minus according to the normal scale. Discarding the two extreme scores is not essential but it does avoid including any wild scores in the comparison. The effect of this scoring is that you should be using team rather than pairs tactics throughout the competition, eg securing your contract rather than worrying about overtricks. There will usually be quite a lot of correlation in the Pairs v Butler results.

The advantage of the method is that it is a much fairer comparison and reduces the random effects in Pairs Scoring.