

San Antonio Holiday Regional Saturday Bulletin



IMP Strategy (for Swiss teams, knockout teams and IMP pairs) by Steven Gaynor
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In a matchpoint event, we are always looking for that extra trick or playing in a risky major suit or notrump rather than a poorer-scoring, but safer, minor suit. Why? Because it pays off big time when it works. We may even risk our contract to make a play for an overtrick. On defense we strive not to blow a trick rather than beat a contract. In IMP scoring, however, the considerations change drastically. Now just making or beating a contract can give us a big score, but extra tricks are chump change. (OK, I know we have all won or lost a match by 1 IMP.) Winning IMP strategies include:

Make your contract. Do not worry about overtricks or undertricks. If you are in the right spot, things will usually work out in your favor.

Do not double their partial. You better have them down two in your own hand before you chance a double of a bid below game. And “down two in your own hand” means you have a fistful of trump tricks. Do not count on your partner for many of these tricks.

Play your safest contract. If in the bidding you find you have a better fit in a minor than a major, play in the minor, especially at a partial. You want to make whatever contract you bid. Plus 110 is only a bit worse than plus 140 and it may not even make any difference sometimes. This also applies to game and slam bidding. If partner opens 1NT and you have a four-card major with at least invitational values, bid Stayman. Plus 620 and plus 630 are the same at IMPs.

Trust your bidding system. Even at pairs, you will be a winner if you are in the right suit at the right level despite blowing an overtrick once in a while.

Do not go for numbers. Don't make some wild, preemptive bid just because you have six or seven (or more) cards in one suit. It is not worth it. Your competitive bidding should be more constructive at IMP scoring. Upgrade your overcalls by at least a queen. This means that if you would overcall with 8 points at pairs, overcall with 10 or more at IMPs.

Stretch to bid a game. If vulnerable, game should be bid even if it is as low as a 40% chance. If not vulnerable, it should be a 50% prospect. If you bid three vulnerable games that your opponents do not bid and you make only one of them, you break even. If you are in an auction and the decision is now in your hands whether to bid game or not — if you have to think about it, bid game.

Today's Schedule (also Sun. thru Wed.)

- 10am** ➔ Stratified 299er Pairs
➔ Morning Side Series (1/5)
➔ Gold Rush Pairs (1/2)
➔ A/X/Y Pairs (1/2)
➔ Bracketed Swiss (1/2)
- 2:30pm** ➔ Stratified 299er Pairs
➔ Afternoon Side Series (2/6)
Gold Rush Pairs (2/2)
A/X/Y Pairs (2/2)
Bracketed Swiss (2/2)
- 7pm** ➔ Evening Side Series (2/6)



**Today's
Speaker**

1:45pm
La Joya

(continued on next page)

IMP Strategy by Steven Gaynor *(continued)*

Do not stretch to bid slams. Bid slams only when they have at least 75% probability of success.

Don't make a risky bid or play because you think you are down in a match. Once, in a seven-board match, we bid a slam down two vulnerable for minus 200, bid 3NT with a combined 21 high-card points after a bidding misunderstanding — which my partner played well for down one and minus 100 — and doubled them in 4H, making five for minus 990. We thought we were slaughtered. Wrong. We won IMPs on all three boards and blitzed the other team.

Don't be a hero. Do not make a confusing bid that (1) may be passed when it is forcing or (2) shows extra values that you don't have. Make the call that shows your strength.

"Take out insurance." In every team game, there will be a hand where both sides can make game. Usually it is a wild hand with lots of distribution, doubles fits and long suits. It is usually right to bid one more (called "taking out insurance") — unless you are sure they are going down and you cannot make your bid.

On defense, strive at all costs to beat the contract when it means giving up an overtrick. You may take risks that you would never dream of at matchpoints — such as leading the king from K-x, hoping to find your partner with the ace of that suit or the queen and a quick entry in trumps. Sometimes you give up an overtrick, so you lose 1 IMP. If your bold play sets a contract just one time in 10, you are ahead. If it's hard for you, it's hard for them. The player sitting in your seat at the other table is holding the same cards you are. This guiding principle will help you on several of the points already listed.

Steven Gaynor is an Emerald Life Master who lives in Minneapolis MN. He is a member of the national Charity and Goodwill committees.

Speakers



Finesses ... On Defense!

Saturday 1:45pm (La Joya Ballroom)

Daniel Jackson, our Saturday speaker, is an Emerald Life Master who began playing bridge in college. He is a club director and certified bridge teacher. Daniel lives in San Antonio with his amazing wife, Debbie, whom he met playing bridge. He grew up in San Antonio but lived in Houston for many years. Daniel is employed as a software developer but still managed to amass more than a thousand masterpoints in each of the last five years, including the COVID-19 years. He has won four national events and two national Mini-McKenney awards and served 5½ years on the board of directors of Unit 174. He is an avid robot bridge player and sends out an occasional newsletter on the topic.

Sun

Whoa! Think Before You Use a Natural Trump Winner to Ruff or Over-Ruff

Ed Rawlinson

Mon

Losing Trick Count

Rosemary Kelley

Tue

Finer Points on Negative Doubles

Hank Eng

Wed

50% Better Bridge

Thomas Rush

Friday Afternoon 299er

1.50	Red	1/2	24.00	60.00	Kay Dabney <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Jeanne Binovi <i>San Antonio, TX</i>
1.50	Red	1/2	24.00	60.00	Richard Lynch <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Patricia Angelides <i>San Antonio, TX</i>

Friday Afternoon Pairs Series

3.22	Gold Red	1	1	73.00	60.83	Carol Ramberg <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Jeanne Dawley <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	
2.42	Red	2	2	1	72.50	60.42	Sisir Sharma <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Ann Perry <i>San Antonio, TX</i>
1.98	Gold	3			70.00	58.33	Kay Laird <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Pat Prichard <i>San Antonio, TX</i>
1.39	Red	4			66.00	55.00	Carolyn Riely <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Terry Riely <i>San Antonio, TX</i>
1.70	Red	5	3	2	65.00	54.17	Robert Christophel <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Stephen Simpson <i>San Antonio, TX</i>
1.27	Red		4/5	3	60.50	50.42	David Rowe <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Leigh Primerano <i>Helotes, TX</i>
1.12	Red		4/5		60.50	50.42	Joe Fletcher <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Olivia Brown <i>San Antonio, TX</i>

Friday Evening Pairs Series

2.65	Gold Red	1		30.19	65.63	Felicia Davis <i>Rockport, TX</i>	Frances Couvillion <i>Rockport, TX</i>
1.99	Red	2		26.45	57.50	Robert Christophel <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Rosalind Brazda <i>Corpus Christi, TX</i>
1.71	Red	3	1	24.44	53.13	Karl Beach <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Barbara Beach <i>San Antonio, TX</i>
1.28	Red		2	22.71	49.37	Connie Perkins <i>Victoria, TX</i>	Nancy Burkhart <i>Victoria, TX</i>

Friday Bracketed Swiss (Bracket 1)

16.81	Gold	1	87.00	Eddie Bass <i>Brookeland, TX</i>	Ellen Hessel <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Ira Hessel <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Patty Hinze <i>San Antonio, TX</i>
12.61	Gold	2	73.00	Nancy Tom <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Sharon Evans <i>Boerne, TX</i>	Roxie Tom <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Hank Eng <i>Jacksonville, FL</i>
9.46	Gold	3	58.00	George Fillis <i>Shavano Park, TX</i>	Karen Fillis <i>Shavano Park, TX</i>	Richard Curtin <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	C David Mitchell <i>San Antonio, TX</i>

Friday Bracketed Swiss (Bracket 2)

7.67	Gold	1	96.00	Elisabeth Kay <i>Spring Branch, TX</i>	Catherine McGaffic <i>New Braunfels, TX</i>	Ann Kuehler <i>New Braunfels, TX</i>	Cindy Cummins <i>Seguin, TX</i>
5.75	Gold	2	73.00	Everette Lewis <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Yesh Singh <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Debbie Schweiss <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Evelyn Pitman <i>San Antonio, TX</i>
4.31	Gold	3	72.00	Wendy Marks <i>Austin, TX</i>	Susan Breeding <i>Austin, TX</i>	Michael Rainbird <i>Austin, TX</i>	Curt Wyman <i>Austin, TX</i>

Friday Gold Rush Pairs

3.68	Gold	1	1		145.16	Sunny Won <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Paul Fafoutakis <i>Universal City, TX</i>
2.76	Gold	2			143.20	Liz Hinkle <i>Horseshoe Bay, TX</i>	Richard Day <i>Horseshoe Bay, TX</i>
2.07	Gold	3			133.99	John Foley <i>Austin, TX</i>	W Kenneth Davis <i>Austin, TX</i>
2.46	Gold Red	4	2		133.61	Pat Roeh <i>Victoria, TX</i>	Susan Wheeler <i>Victoria, TX</i>
2.56	Red		3	1	120.83	Teresa Bolen <i>The Woodlands, TX</i>	Zane Bolen <i>The Woodlands, TX</i>
1.38	Red		4		118.32	Mary Jane Gelpi <i>Baton Rouge, LA</i>	Sheila Boyne <i>Baton Rouge, LA</i>
1.92	Red			2	113.35	Lois Head <i>Saint Cloud, MN</i>	Charles Head <i>Saint Cloud, MN</i>

Friday A/X/Y Pairs

12.25	Gold	1			120.26	Rosemary Kelley <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Sheryleen Grothus <i>San Antonio, TX</i>
9.19	Gold	2			109.54	Ron LaCour <i>Georgetown, TX</i>	Anne LaCour <i>Georgetown, TX</i>
6.94	Gold	3	1		107.54	Marilyn Adams <i>Beaumont, TX</i>	Anton (Tony) Haddad <i>Houston, TX</i>
5.21	Gold	4	2	1	106.74	Kathryn Bailey <i>Dripping Spring, TX</i>	Wiley McMinn III <i>Austin, TX</i>
3.22	Gold			2	103.31	Myra Ribak <i>San Antonio, TX</i>	Sally Sanders <i>San Antonio, TX</i>