

Hampton Duplicate Bridge Club

Bridgemate Debate

Special General Meeting

Monday 1st August at Age UK

Start 6.30pm

- The Club have the opportunity to purchase a set of 16 Bridgemate Pro handsets and Server from Bekesbourne Bridge Club for £250. These are in good working order and were previously used for around 2 years by Broadstairs BC.
- Additionally the Club would have to purchase a laptop and printer to operate the system and provide results sheets at the end of the evening. This would cost no more than a further £150.

Why Introduce Bridgemates ?

- To reduce and in 99%+ of cases eliminate errors in scoring.
- To provide a check on each round that the right pair and right boards are in play.
- To allow players to see in % terms how they scored on each hand.
- To provide a result as soon as the final board has been played.
- Players can leave with a copy of the results.
- These have long been in place in many Clubs and are used by EBU in all competitions.
- Players who play in local, regional and national competitions will already be familiar with the system.
- Eliminates problems reading some scores.
- This system does not require wireless access.

Why Change?

- Some people naturally will resist change
- Some will not be comfortable with another piece of technology
- Some will miss the Travelers showing possible making contracts.

- If the Club decide to go ahead, then for the first month paper based records of the scores will be recorded by South in case there are any problems with the automated system.

Impact for the Club

- Club Directors will need to learn how to operate system and correct any problems that may arise on the night in addition to normal Directing issues. (Initially Only those Directing on a Monday).
- Several Members will be required to learn how to operate the system, especially if it is rolled out to all venues.
- Existing Scorers may also need to learn the system.

What is the Cost of a new or refurbished set ?

- A new set of Bridgemate 2 would cost £2400
- A refurbished set of Bridgemate Pro would cost £1150

The Future for the Club

- If the Members vote to use Bridgemates then I would see initial use at Age UK and if successful then rolled out to Wednesday and Friday Venues.
- Given that the Club has several venues it would not be practical for one set of Bridgemates to be moved constantly from venue to venue.
- Bridgemate 2 require wireless access to operate which is now available at AGE UK (but may not be so easily available at the other venues).
- I would see the Club buying a new set for use at Age UK (within 12 months) and splitting the set under consideration for use at both St Dunstan's and Swalecliffe. A few extra handsets may be required (cost £54 @) so that each venue had say 10 sets.

- Ultimately I am sure that Bridgemate scoring will move to tablet useage so taking advantage of a very cost effective introduction to this scoring system would be good for the Club giving it and its Members time to consider the best options for the Future.