

### BridgeWebs Display Option

By default, the travellers on BridgeWebs display the score as "Total Tricks Made". Here's an example taken from Board 1 last week (20<sup>th</sup> October 2016):

<b>Board No 1 None Vul Dealer North</b>								
<b>Deal: ThirdThursday6</b>								
<b>NS</b>	<b>EW</b>	<b>Bid</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>Tks</b>	<b>+Sc</b>	<b>-Sc</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>-</b>
1	8	7♠*	S	12		100	1	9
3	12	5♠*	N	11	650		8	2
4	7	4♠	S	12	480		6	4
6	11	4♠	S	11	450		4	6
10	2	6♠*	S	11		100	1	9
14	13	6♠	S	12	980		10	

However, another available option for the display is "Equal, Plus or Minus", which looks like this:

<b>Board No 1 None Vul Dealer North</b>								
<b>Deal: ThirdThursday6</b>								
<b>NS</b>	<b>EW</b>	<b>Bid</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>Tks</b>	<b>+Sc</b>	<b>-Sc</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>-</b>
1	8	7♠*	S	-1		100	1	9
3	12	5♠*	N	=	650		8	2
4	7	4♠	S	+2	480		6	4
6	11	4♠	S	+1	450		4	6
10	2	6♠*	S	-1		100	1	9
14	13	6♠	S	=	980		10	

To be honest, the difference is purely cosmetic and fairly trivial, but I prefer the latter slightly. The main advantage of the latter format to my mind is that the result displays as entered at the Bridgemate -- we enter 6S as = rather than 6S making 12 tricks, so why not display it that way too in BridgeWebs (\*).

Another possible benefit is that it helps differentiate our website, as most clubs seem to have gone with the default "Total Tricks" display, maybe because they couldn't be bothered to change it, or were unaware of the alternative(?).

If enough people express a strong preference for the former display, I can switch back to it easily enough. Presumably when some players go one down in a small slam they count the tricks in front of them until they get to 11, at which point they realise they didn't make the slam?!

(\*) To be fair, this is a slightly circular argument, as the Bridgemates themselves are tailorable to accept scores entered in either format, and there was some debate at Royston at the time (2012) over which format was preferable. Inevitably, there are arguments both ways.

However, the club is unlikely to change after all this time, and in reality the “Equal, Plus or Minus” way of entering the score at the Bridgemate seems more intuitive to me. It is also the method adopted as standard by both the EBU and HBA, and at the vast majority of bridge clubs in my experience. (There are one or two notable exceptions though, such as Cambridge Bridge Club.)