

ELECTRONIC SCORING SYSTEM OVERVIEW

We have been investigating some of the different types of electronic scoring system for possible use in Sandbach Bridge Club. We want to give you a brief outline of the preferred system and then poll members views about using such a system and the club investing in a system.

The systems we have tested use modern technology 7 inch tablets as the input device and we would need 1 per table. The picture below shows an example screen ready for input of the result from a hand.

The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for bridge scoring. At the top, a blue header displays 'Rnd 1 NS3 EW3 Tbl 3'. Below this, there are four input fields: 'Board' with the value '5', 'Contr' with '1NT by S', 'Lead' with a dash, and 'Tricks' which is empty. At the bottom of the screen is a 4x4 grid of buttons representing cards: A, K, Q, J in the first row; 10, 9, 8, 7 in the second row; 6, 5, 4, 3 in the third row; and 2, a blue empty space, DEL, and OK in the fourth row.

Other screens allow pairs names to be entered at the start of the session at their first table.

Such devices are widely available and often used as educational / entertainment devices for small children. They operate like large mobile phones with touch sensitive screens.

These devices would connect to our current scoring software wirelessly and this would then perform the scoring as we play and results would be available at the end of the evening.

We could use the laptop PC, which currently manages the timer for us, to also run the scoring software.

The exact cost would depend on what hardware was selected but we estimate that the entry level system we favour could be purchased for £550 to £650. This would include licences, interface units, some means of recharging the devices safely and secure storage.

There would be minimal ongoing cost other than maintenance / replacement of the hardware if any of it should stop working.

PROs

- results would be available at the end of the session.
- Progressive results would be viewable on the tablets as scores are entered.
- directors would not need to do the manual data entry of scores at home.
- The electronic system would check the correct boards were being played by the correct pairs at each table to prevent any mix ups.
- Also it will generate the correct score once the entered contract result has been confirmed.
- Reduced stationery requirements would mean lower spend in this area.
- Sandbach and District Bridge Club would be in a position to derive all the benefits available from modern technology and be more attractive to some members and/or newcomers.

CONs

- we would use some of the club's funds for the purchase reducing the reserve.
- If we suffered a power outage on a playing night we might have to revert to pen and paper.
- Directors will have some additional tasks at the start and end of the session to do with recharging devices and initiating a session on the scoring system.