

Hopefully you will have read the paper on electronic scoring put up on our web site prior to our meeting on Tuesday

Quite separate to that I followed up a contact given to me by Margo Ayers about an electronic scoring system she had used on a recent holiday and had been very impressed with. All I had was the contact name and a telephone number.

I rang the number this morning to find that the organiser of this holiday was 'BridgeBug'. They are based at the The Avenue Bridge Club in Hove and use BridgeTab - one of the systems we have been considering. I took the opportunity to find out a little more about the system, how it works and how good it is.

BridgeTab originates from 'Jannersten' - a Swedish company who also market dealing machines. As we already knew it is distributed in the UK by BridgeTab UK in Cardiff. The UK salesman is Keith Butler.

BridgeBug (Dave and Jill Armstrong) are not part of the Avenue Bridge Club but operate from the same premises. They have since 1993 run a supervised bridge session on Tuesdays from 7.30 to 10 and have for some time used BridgeTab to support and score the session. They have a maximum of 10 tables per session.

Overall their experience of BridgeTab is very positive however they were a little disappointed with the level of support provided by Mr Butler when they implemented the system. They felt they 'got in over their heads' and could have done with a bit more hand holding. Subsequent support experiences were much better. It is possible to get BridgeTab install and commission a system and provide training as part of an installation package. There is an additional charge for this which is not entirely clear and I have submitted a query to their web site.

BridgeTab uses tablets to record and display contracts, scores etc. The tablet displays are very clear and very easy to read and clearer than the displays provided by BridgeMate handsets. At first they allowed the tablet to 'go to sleep' between entries however players weren't happy with this approach and they subsequently changed to a 'display throughout the session' approach. A tablet will possess sufficient to charge for an entire session and perhaps two but they recommend recharging between sessions. Input errors are very easily corrected. There is a 'TD' button which enables the Director to make more significant corrections/changes. BridgeTab interfaces with ScoreBridge for scoring purposes. BridgeBug don't 'pin protect' the TD button but this is possible.

BridgeBug has invited us to send some players to take part in their Tuesday night session to experience BridgeTab in action.

John