

BridgePad scores a hit in newcomer test

Una Lynch-Long of Lincoln CA sat North in section DDD in the newcomer game on Friday. In that position, she was responsible for the scores at her table.

After a session of scoring in a brand new way – with the BridgePad wireless scoring system – she was ready to endorse the new method.



Una Lynch-Long enters a score on the BridgePad during Friday's newcomer

"It's pretty good," Lynch-Long said. "I think it will catch on."

One person who hopes she is right is

Henryk Szejnwald, the developer of the BridgePad.

Here's how they work. There is one BridgePad on each table.

After the auction, North enters the contract into a device that looks like an oversized calculator.

When play is completed, North enters the result, then hands the device to one of the opponents to verify that it is accurate. After the opponent okays the score, it is sent via radio signal to a computer that is compatible with ACBLscore.



The BridgePad looks like a large calculator.

When the final score of the session is entered, the complete results are available for printout – just as though the data had been entered by hand.

Friday's test was the first at an NABC. The devices were to have been given a dry run at the Summer NABC in Nashville, but the user interface needed some

tweaking.

Szejnwald and his bridge and business partner Franklin Gonzalez made some

adjustments and rolled them out in the newcomer game.

Chief Tournament Director Rick Beye was pleased with what he saw. "The players seem to like them," he said.

Beye noted that before he would agree to the test in San Francisco, Szejnwald had to provide assurance that the bugs had been worked out.

Tournament

Director Dianna Barton-Paine

used BridgePads

at three sectionals

leading up to the

Fall NABC – and

she happily gave

the device her

seal of approval.

The BridgePads

worked so well

and the players

liked using them so much that Barton-Paine didn't

even use pickup slips for backup after the first

tournament.

"The players liked it," she said, "and I liked it."

Szejnwald started developing the BridgePad in

early 2007 after 15 years of creating wireless

devices for schools. BridgePads go on sale very

soon, he said. The company web site is

www.bridgepadrf.com.

At the end of the day, Lynch-Long and her

partner, Rosemary Hood, gave the BridgePad a

thumbs-up rating.

"It eliminates a lot of errors," said Lynch-Long,

"from wrong scores and bad penmanship."

Hood said she would use the devices again with

pleasure. "I like electronics," she said.

"We're getting modernized. What I like is you

don't have to wait for the data to be entered."



Franklin Gonzalez and Henryk Szejnwald with the radio receiver that takes the data.

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