Scorers and Scoring

The Scorer is another essential figure at any bridge club. Especially at smaller clubs, it is often the Director who also does the scoring, but this need not be the case. The days of scoring by hand are largely over as all EBU affiliated clubs now score using a computer program. It is, however, still useful for Scorers to know how manual scoring works in order to understand the fundamentals. There is a good summary of the basics of scoring in the EBED booklet *How To Run a Club Duplicate*. This is a booklet provided to those who attend the EBED Club Director training course and is a useful addition to a club's resources. It is available from the The Bridge Warehouse.

Scoring software

For EBU affiliated clubs EBUScore is freely available. This has different programs for Pairs, Teams, Swiss Pairs, Swiss Teams and Individual. There are also now simplified programs called Club Pairs and Club Teams. All of these are available to download here, login using the club's My EBU login details. Various manuals are available here. For any queries please email ebuscore@ebu.co.uk.

For uploading the club's sessions results to EBU any program which can create a USEBIO specification XML file will work. Instructions on submitting results to the EBU can be found here.

Some other scoring programs which are available are:

ScoreBridge
BridgeScore
Bridge Gem

Wireless electronic scoring

Many clubs now use electronic devices for scoring. These systems consist of a small handheld device on each table into which the players enter the score for the board just played. The scores are then relayed wirelessly to a base unit connected to the club computer which calculates the overall results.

The main advantage is that the results become available within minutes of the event finishing, so that members don't have to wait until the next day or following week to see how they have done. Clubs can also choose to have interim results available to view on screen, so that players can see how they are doing during the course of the event.

Other advantages are:

- Players key in club numbers or EBU numbers into the table top units at the beginning of the event and their names are then shown at each table they go to.
- Travellers and table (name) slips can be dispensed with.
- The units display the pair numbers, player names, their orientation and the board numbers at the beginning of each round making it less likely that boards are played by the wrong pairs or the wrong way round.
- Only the number of tricks is entered, leaving the calculation of the actual score to the scoring device.

Thus there is less work for the Scorer overall but the system does need a bit of setting up at the beginning of the duplicate and there is a learning curve to be mastered in terms of use of the devices themselves, integration with the club's scoring program and what to do when members input their scores incorrectly or there is some other hitch.

An electronic scoring system does represent a considerable financial investment and is perhaps more readily implemented at a club which has its own premises and plays several times a week. A club needs to decide whether it can justify the outlay and whether it has the necessary secure storage facilities for a computer or laptop and scoring devices.

The most widespread and best known system is [Bridgemate](#). Other systems include [BridgePal](#), [BridgeTab](#), [TabScore](#), [ArcScorer](#) and [BriAn Bridge](#).

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