

## 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 EBU booklet *Running a Duplicate Event*. This is a booklet provided to those who attend the EBU Club Director training course and is a useful addition to a club's resources. It is available from the [EBU Bridge Shop](#).

### Scoring software

There are a number of scoring programs which are compatible with the EBU systems and approved for use at affiliated clubs, but the vast majority of clubs use the popular [ScoreBridge](#). Another widely used scoring program is Jeff Smith's Pairs Scorer <http://homepages.nildram.co.uk/~jasmith/>.

Queries regarding the operation of a scoring program should be addressed to the provider of the software, although in some instances where the query relates to the interface with EBU systems, EBU staff may be able to help.

### Synchronisation

Nowadays, most clubs have more than one Scorer in order to spread the load and cover for absences. If the scoring is always done on the same computer or laptop, there is usually no problem. However, if the scoring is done at home on each Scorer's own machine, then it is essential that a procedure is put into place to ensure that each Scorer is always using the latest version of the player database in the scoring program.

This can be done by one Scorer emailing the player database to the next after scoring, but a better system is to upload the player database to the club's website after scoring an event, so that it is then available for download by whoever next does the scoring. If the club has a BridgeWebs website, there is a built-in facility in ScoreBridge to do this at the click of a button.

Please also refer to the section on the [EBU Universal Membership Subscription System](#).

## **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 their own names or EBU numbers into the table top units at the beginning of the event.

Travellers and table (name) slips can be dispensed with.

The units display the pair numbers, 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](#), now into its second generation. Other systems include [Bridgepad](#), [Bridge Butler](#) and [BridgeScorer](#).