

Courtesy of Debbie Cummings

Attached is the latest information regarding the Bridgemate Electronic Scoring System.

We would need to purchase approximately 50-60 terminals (one per table, 2 Sections of 18 tables and 10 Section of 8 tables plus 4 spare – or enough for 3 Sections of 18 plus 6 spare). This number was derived by the fact that each terminal is individually programmed for a specific section and table number. In order to move a terminal from one table to another, the director must re-program each terminal being moved to the new section and table number. Our game sizes differ greatly from session to session. The Deschappelles game on Monday morning is running consistently at 2 sections of 12 to 14 tables. Other games only run one section, but they can be as large as 17 – 18 tables per section. We also have a few games that occasionally need 3 sections (2 Open Sections and 1 Novice Section), primarily on Friday afternoon, STAC games, and Special Events. If we purchased fewer terminals, then when 3 sections are required, the director would have to re-program the terminals to fit the 3 sections or score the 3rd section manually. Since the director does not know until game time the number of sections and tables in each section that are required, the game would be delayed until the re-programming and movement of the terminals is complete. Bridgemate Pro (older model) requires a physical key to re-program and Bridgemate II (newer model) requires a pin security code. If we purchased a sufficient number of terminals, then no re-programming would be required at club games (unless a terminal fails to respond).

A central server is required to handle communications between the terminals and the scoring computer. A central server can handle up to 128 terminals, so only one server would need to be purchased.

We could use our existing computer system with Bridgemate, but it would require us to switch to ACBLScore for Windows Version 7.62. ACBLScore for DOS, which we use at the Bridge Center and all the directors are familiar with, does not support the Bridgemate system. This would require that all directors learn the Windows version of ACBLScore. It is not easy to transition between the DOS and Windows versions, because the program was not rewritten for Windows use...it's like they took the DOS version of ACBLScore and just placed a Windows interface around it. The DOS version of ACBLScore does not utilize a mouse and incorporates shortcut commands, which all the directors have memorized. The Windows version requires the use of the mouse and pull-down menus or specialized keyboard sequences/function keys to replace the shortcuts. Since very few of our directors are computer savvy, there will be reluctance to learn the new software and could require as long as 3 months for them to become comfortable with the Windows version. Remember, we use different directors for each of our sessions and some directors may only use the software 2 to 4 times a month.

Regardless of the difficulty and training effort, I recommend transitioning to the Windows version. We currently use the Microsoft XP Operating system on the computers at the Bridge Center. The systems are approximately 4 1/2 years old. When they need to be replaced, newer computers will have the latest and greatest Microsoft Operating system. The newest Windows 7 operating system does not provide support for older DOS programs and will not support DOS video modes (no full screen). The hardware and software industry will be forcing us to upgrade at a future date, and who knows how long the ACBL will continue to maintain 2 versions of the software.

Estimated cost based on the requirements above:

40 units, server software, 2 carrying case + taxes and shipping = \$6,000

Each terminal requires 2 AA batteries for operation. Battery life is estimated to be 200 hours. Note that the terminals are supposed to be in sleep mode when not in use (minimal or no battery use). The server requires 3 AAA batteries for backup. According to the literature provided by the manufacturer, the batteries are provided with the initial purchase.

Anticipating replacing the batteries every 500 sessions(once a year).

A bulk package of 144 AA batteries (non-rechargeable) costs approximately \$50.00.

Additional costs would be incurred for carrying cases for the Bridgemate system, if we wanted to use the devices

at tournaments. The travel Case which holds 20 Bridgemates and the Server Adapter plus Power Supply costs \$40.

Pros:

1. Reduction in the work load for directors.
 - a. Directors would no longer manually enter scores.
 - b. Directors and/or caddies would no longer need to gather pickup slips from tables.
 - c. We could enable the option of having the players enter their ACBL number, thus directors would no longer have to enter names. They would still be required to stratify each pair.
2. Reduction in scoring errors.
 - a. Elimination of scoring errors when manually entering them.
 - b. Would eliminate errors when the player incorrectly calculates or enters wrong score. Bridgemate requires the entry of the actual contract and the number of tricks won or lost. It calculates the correct result. East/West must OK the final result.
 - c. Would not eliminate incorrect player entries and/or faulty OK's by East/West. To handle this problem, Bridgemate has designed a score correction form which can be downloaded from their website.
3. More timely results.
 - a. Scores would be available as soon as the last table has entered their results via Bridgemate.
 - b. If a director has to make several rulings during the last round or has to substitute for a player, then the results would not be delayed.
 - c. Would allow the director to play, if needed, to eliminate long sitouts or unusually movements.
4. More detailed results.
 - a. Optional ability to display results from previous rounds (like travelers). Can slow down the game and increase director calls.
 - b. Optional ability to display a percentage which is an estimate of how the result compares to other tables. Can slow down the game and increase director calls.
 - c. Additional analysis can be made available on the CBA website regarding each board in play. The output makes it easier for players and pairs to compare their results versus other pairs and assist them with improving their game. Also can be used by teachers and directors in Supervised Play situations.

analysis by Deep Finesse		RESULTS OF BOARD 1																																																	
♠A J 8 7 6 5 ♥Q 8 ♦K 2 ♣4 3 2	Dealer: N Vul: None	♠K 3 ♥J 7 5 ♦Q 9 4 ♣A J T 8 7	♠4 ♥A T 9 6 ♦J T 8 7 6 3 ♣Q 5	♠Q T 9 2 ♥K 4 3 2 ♦A 5 ♣K 9 6	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">CONTRACTS</th> <th colspan="2">SCORES</th> <th colspan="2">MATCHPOINTS</th> <th rowspan="2">NAMES</th> </tr> <tr> <th>N-S</th> <th>E-W</th> <th>N-S</th> <th>E-W</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3 S N</td> <td>170</td> <td></td> <td>4.00</td> <td>1.00</td> <td>1-Martin-Swango vs 1-Schomaeker-O'Connor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 S N</td> <td>450</td> <td></td> <td>5.00</td> <td>0.00</td> <td>2-Thurman-Augsdorfer vs 3-Gribi-Dasenbrock</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 S N</td> <td></td> <td>50</td> <td>0.50</td> <td>4.50</td> <td>3-BRINKMAN-Zurborg vs 5-Middaugh-Dingus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 S N</td> <td></td> <td>50</td> <td>0.50</td> <td>4.50</td> <td>5-Frey-Purdum vs 2-Brockman-Kellerman</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 S N</td> <td>140</td> <td></td> <td>2.50</td> <td>2.50</td> <td>6-Hurst-Brothers vs 4-Yip-Wolfe</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 S N</td> <td>140</td> <td></td> <td>2.50</td> <td>2.50</td> <td>7-Mendenhall-Mendenhall vs 6-Deidesheimer-Deidesheime</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	CONTRACTS	SCORES		MATCHPOINTS		NAMES	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	3 S N	170		4.00	1.00	1-Martin-Swango vs 1-Schomaeker-O'Connor	4 S N	450		5.00	0.00	2-Thurman-Augsdorfer vs 3-Gribi-Dasenbrock	4 S N		50	0.50	4.50	3-BRINKMAN-Zurborg vs 5-Middaugh-Dingus	4 S N		50	0.50	4.50	5-Frey-Purdum vs 2-Brockman-Kellerman	2 S N	140		2.50	2.50	6-Hurst-Brothers vs 4-Yip-Wolfe	3 S N	140		2.50	2.50	7-Mendenhall-Mendenhall vs 6-Deidesheimer-Deidesheime
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Cons:

1. A substantial initial investment (\$7000 - \$8500).

2. The new Bridgemate II scoring device will not be available until late November. It is typically best to delay purchasing by 6 months for new hardware and software (due to potential problems and upgrades).
3. A substantial investment in the initial training of all of the directors and players.
 - a. Directors would need to learn ACBLScore for Windows.
 - b. Directors would need to learn additional method for saving DealMaster Pro (Deep Finesse) output.
 - c. Directors would need to learn the Bridgemate scoring system and how it interfaces with ACBLScore.
 - d. Directors would need to learn how to maintain and configure the Bridgemate system.
 - e. The first month would require a number of patient volunteers willing to go to each game to help familiarize players with the system.
 - f. Resistance from both directors and players to having to learn something new and different.
4. An ongoing non-trivial amount of time for director support and hardware/software troubleshooting.
5. Upgrade of CBA website calendar to display Deep Finesse analysis and additional result information. This would also involve rewrite of CBA Upload program which the directors use to publish hand records and press results.