

**Steering Committee
Louisville, KY
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The following is a brief summary of the report given to the BOD on Wednesday, March 7.

The Steering Committee dealing with ACBLscore is a committee formed with the help of management and the ACBL President to help guide the work being done on bringing ACBLscore and its underlying data base into the modern computing environment, while adding features (e.g., cashless and online entry purchase) which were not possible when the original ACBLscore was written. The committee was formed after a systems analyst, Steve Bailey, was hired by the ACBL to do an Initial Study, which should be completed by April 15. Other than 2 small pieces of software development requested by Mr. Bailey and contracted for by ACBL management (cost estimate about \$20000 for the 2 pieces total), we have not been involved in contracting for software development. After the initial study is complete, and we have had the time to ask various experts (Adam Wildavsky is one who has volunteered to read it), we will be working on fleshing out the specifications needed to put out a request for proposals to do this project, assuming the BOD and management concur. It is a little early to give firm figures, but I would not be surprised to see the software development alone to cost \$600,000, with additional significant costs (six figures) for each of testing and education of users.

I believe that the 2 largest components of the work will be designing a comprehensive data base to allow everyone who needs to use the same data without needless data re-entry and writing the portion of the program that actually keeps score, although that is probably the part of the system that works best now. The methodology currently being suggested by our systems analyst makes it possible that some components of the final product can be done by different firms. Nonetheless, it is our intent that everything of any significant size, even if its cost falls below \$50000, needs to be bid on following a request for proposal.

You will be hearing from us before Toronto, and we hope that by then we will be ready for the bidding process. My most optimistic view of development is that the software would be ready for testing by January 1, 2012, with full rollout for tournaments by April 1, 2012. What we do for clubs may depend on whether portions of the new software, such as calculation of masterpoint awards developed by the masterpoint committee, can be attached to the present system on a temporary basis. While it is inevitable that some changes will be required for users, the underlying data base may remain invisible to them, making adaptation easier.