

CUSTOMER SUCCESS



Decipher Masters the Art of Great Games With Sage MAS 500

The East Bank Club is one of Chicago’s toniest establishments. Created as an “inner-city country club,” it features complete facilities for sports, fitness, dining, and socializing in a congenial and gracious setting.

Located close to the prestigious Chicago Loop, the club boasts state-of-the-art strength and weight training equipment, an indoor running track, pro shop, salon, spa, valet cleaners, 14 racquet courts, an indoor golf driving range, four swimming pools, two gyms, more than 40 certified fitness trainers, a wellness center, and the largest health club spinning studio in the nation. In addition to a relaxed restaurant, café, two grills, deli, and juice and coffee bar, the club has catering facilities to accommodate groups of up to 500 for weddings, business, and other social gatherings.

Systems for Financial Fitness

Dale McCarrell, CPA, joined the East Bank Club as its CFO in mid-2002 and found an antiquated and unstable UNIX system on a standalone server. Numerous software programs managed the club’s 40 different departments, but did not “speak” to one another. Creating enterprise-wide reports was next to impossible.

He launched a sweeping transformation, beginning with the club’s main financial system. “It was like taking the roof off the house, and discovering that everything inside needed changing before the rains came,” McCarrell explains. “I selected Sage MAS 500 ERP as our framework, a no-brainer given its functionality, terrific value, and intuitive architecture. At the same time, we replaced our reservations, point-of-sale, payroll, timeclock, food-and-beverage. and parking garage systems, all within five months.”

Sage MAS 500 is now used for payables, receivables, purchasing, general ledger, cash management, and reporting functions. Numerous vertical management systems feed seamlessly into Sage MAS 500 for easy end-to-end reporting. “The integration is very sound,” McCarrell notes. “Our reseller was an excellent business partner throughout the implementation, helping me with project management and other software vendors.”

Customer:

East Bank Club Venture

Industry:

Sports, fitness & hospitality

Location:

Chicago, Illinois

Number of Locations

One

Number of Employees

650

System:

Sage MAS 500

- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Alerts
- Cash Management
- Customizer
- DataPorter
- eExecutive
- General Ledger
- Purchase Order

CHALLENGE

Inadequate reporting hobbled efforts to enhance management efficiencies and integrate 40 diverse departments.

SOLUTION

New computer systems throughout the entire enterprise, built on a Sage MAS 500 backbone.

RESULTS

Discovered \$70,000 in missing revenue in just one month, cut Accounts Payable costs, automated data feeds from vertical systems, and eliminated days of work every week in report preparation.

Reports With Muscle

Sage MAS 500 reports have been the biggest boon to McCarrell. "We found \$70,000 in missing revenue in one month alone because of the way we can upload and analyze budgets in Sage MAS 500," he says. "Each department can drill down through their expenses and check for accuracy. Changes that once took hours can be done in a few minutes. We can even run reports simultaneously for different periods, a great convenience."

He also appreciates the way Sage MAS 500 integrates with industry-standard software. "We did our annual budgets in Excel this year, consolidated them, and then uploaded the data straight into Sage MAS 500 in about an hour. Previously this was a two-and-a-half day project."

The system processes more than 200 checks a week. "Sage MAS 500 lets us predetermine which checks to run and which to hold for a later date, something we were unable to do before," McCarrell says. "We've set up repetitive vendor invoices to avoid late fees. And we're saving 20 percent on check stock by using our laser printer."

Soon the club will roll out an eExecutive application that automatically generates weekly profitability reports broken out by profit centers, and sends them by e-mail to McCarrell's fellow executives. He estimates this will save a day and a half every week.

An Alerts application will enhance ordering accuracy. "If someone codes an expense to the wrong account, exceeds their budget limit, or makes a manual journal entry, the system generates an alert, making it much simpler to analyze statements and reconcile accounts in Accounts Receivable," McCarrell explains.

"Sage MAS 500 is our driver for improving profitability and efficiency throughout the club," McCarrell says. "We're already seeing enormous benefits."

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ABOUT SAGE SOFTWARE

Sage Software supports the needs, challenges, and dreams of more than 2.7 million small and mid-sized business customers in North America through easy-to-use, scalable, and customizable software and services. Our products help manage a complete range of business functions including: accounting, operations, customer relationship management, human resources, time tracking, merchant services and the specialized needs of the construction, distribution, healthcare, manufacturing, nonprofit, and real estate industries.

