MASTER POINT HANDBOOK

Club Edition

1998

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ABOUT THE MASTER POINTS SCHEME

Introduction

The English Bridge Union Master Point Scheme came into operation in September 1956. Since then many thousands of players have enjoyed the benefits of the scheme which enables recognition of their achievements from Club Master right through to Grand Master.

Clubs have also appreciated the value of the scheme with its unique incentives in helping to promote and retain club membership.

In order to operate the Master Point scheme your club needs to be affiliated to the English Bridge Union. For more details about both club and individual membership of the EBU, telephone the Membership Secretary on **01296 317201**.

Members encountering difficulties when awarding, receiving or registering Master Points may phone the **Master Point Helpline** on **01296 317202.**

About this handbook

The *Club Edition* of the *Master Points Handbook* concentrates solely on club awards and has been produced by the EBU to enable a club's Master Point issuing officer to access the information required when awarding points, effectively and quickly.

For large clubs, attracting more than 30 tables and staging their own leagues, it is recommended that the full version of the *Master Points Handbook* be used. This gives comprehensive explanations of all awards and can be obtained on request from the EBU.

How the scheme works

Affiliated clubs purchase blank Master Point certificates from the EBU. These are completed, by the club's issuing officer, with the number of points earned by players who attain pre-set standards in the club's competitions.

Members of the EBU may then register the points by submitting the certificates to the EBU. Accumulated registrations enable the player to have the satisfaction of achieving the various ranking levels.

Where does the money go?

The EBU is a non-profit making organisation. In promoting the game of duplicate bridge throughout England it guarantees and safeguards the future of the game for all bridge players.

The EBU recruits and trains teachers who are the main recruiters of new people to the game of bridge. It provides training for club directors who are often the organisers of club bridge. It invests in the future of the game by promoting the learning of bridge in schools and universities.

The EBU *Bridge Shop* provides a sensible and stable price structure for club stationery and playing accessories such as boards, bidding boxes and playing cards.

Many non-EBU members of affiliated clubs therefore passively enjoy the benefits that the EBU provides. The Master Point scheme enables all club members to contribute to the county and national organisation of the game and provides a way for all club players to give something back to the game to help promote and safeguard its future.

MASTER POINT TYPES AND RANKS

Types of Master Point

There are three types of point. Local and Green Points accumulate to establish a player's Master Point rank. Gold Points, which depreciate in value over a five year period, provide a measure of form for more senior players.

Local Points: These are awarded to any duplicate session complying with the normal rules and regulations of the Master Point scheme.

Green Points: These are won in national events and are necessary for progress to the most senior ranks. The club heats of the National Pairs competition attract Green Points. They are awarded in whole numbers, or halves or quarters. The value of a Green Point is 100 Local Points (so 1½ Green Points = 150 Local Points).

Gold Points: Any performance in a single event which merits an award of 5 Green Points or more automatically receives a Gold Point in addition to the Green Point award.

Master Point ranks

A player's accumulated holding of Green and Local Points are expressed together under the collective term of Master Points. The ranks of Regional Master and above require a specified number of the total points to have been converted from Green Points. For example, 7,500 Local Points and 25 Green Points qualify the holder as a Regional Master. The ranks and requirements are listed opposite in increasing order of seniority.

Master Points Needed for Each Rank

	Total number of Master Points needed			
Club Master	**200**			
District Master	**1,000**			
County Master	**2,500**			
Master	**5,000**			
Advanced Master	**7,500**			
*** Master**	**10,000**			
**** Master**	**15,000**			
***** Master**	**20,000**			
****** Master**	**25,000**			
******* Master**	**30,000**			
Tournament Master	**40,000**			
Regional Master	**10,000**	*Including*	*25*	*Green Points (2,500 Master Points)*
Premier Regional Master	**20,000**	*Including*	*50*	*Green Points (5,000 Master Points)*
National Master	**30,000**	*Including*	*75*	*Green Points (7,500 Master Points)*
Premier National Master	**40,000**	*Including*	*100*	*Green Points (10,000 Master Points)*
Life Master	**60,000**	*Including*	*150*	*Green Points (15,000 Master Points)*
Premier Life Master	**90,000**	*Including*	*300*	*Green Points (30,000 Master Points)*
Grand Master	**120,000**	*Including*	*600*	*Green Points (60,000 Master Points)*

Within the rank of Master, the sub-ranks are expressed as One Star Master, Two Star Master etc.

Within the ranks of Tournament, Regional and Premier Regional Master, a Star is pre-fixed for each block of 10,000 Master Points earned in excess of the 40,000/10,000/20,000 points required respectively. For example, One Star Regional Master requires 20,000 Master Points, including 2,500 converted from Green Points; Two Star Regional Master requires 30,000 Master Points, including 2,500 converted from Green Points.

MASTER POINT CERTIFICATES

Types of certificate

Blank Master Point certificates are purchased from the *Bridge Shop* at the EBU by affiliated clubs, districts and counties in books of 50.

Alternatively, and by prior arrangement with the EBU, clubs may issue computer generated Master Point certificates. Computerised certificates are an alternative and time-saving way of issuing points and are paid for in arrears.

From 1999, a club using computerised Master Points may elect to submit to the EBU electronically using our approved format, either on floppydisk or via email.

Master Point certificates are completed and distributed by an appointed officer of the club. A completed certificate must include the name of the player, the date of issue and the number of points awarded, and be signed by the issuing officer.

When to issue a certificate

Clubs may choose at which events to award Master Points. Some clubs issue points for all duplicate events, others more selectively.

Certificates should be issued and distributed as soon as possible after the event to which they relate. Each certificate must relate to one event/stage of an event only.

The points cannot be aggregated from one game to another, or from a qualifying round of an event to the final. For more details about these exceptions please consult the full *Master Point Handbook.*

Competitors entitled to a certificate

About the top one-third of the players in a competition will be entitled to a certificate. All competitors entitled to a certificate must be issued with one. Even if a player is not a member of the EBU, or not a member of the club, the organisers of the event must still issue a certificate.

Example of a completed certificate

S 8930119

English Bridge Union
Master Points

This is to certify that

Alan Jones .....*has this day scored*

words..Forty Two.....***figures..***42 ..***Local Points***

Issued by…AHG .....***Date*** 11/9/98

This certificate is valid for THREE YEARS from the date of issue. It should be submitted for registration within that period to the **Master Points Office, English Bridge Union, Broadfields, Bicester Road Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 3BG**. Provided that you are an individual member of the EBU, these points will be entered against your membership record and you will be eligible to attain ranks of Master Player.

Mistakes when issuing a certificate

If an incorrect certificate has been issued as a result of an error in calculating the award, the issuing officer needs to take all reasonable steps to correct the error by recovery and amendment of the certificate. Any amendment needs to be signed by the issuing officer.

Expiry of certificates

Master Point certificates have a 'shelf life' of three years from the date of issue.

Lost certificates

Members who lose a Master Point certificate may, in certain circumstances, be credited with the points that it represented. Supporting evidence of the original issue will be required.

REGISTRATION OF MASTER POINTS

How does a member register points?

The register of Master Points is maintained at the offices of the EBU. Only members of the EBU may register their points and have their records maintained. Although members may register their points and request a copy of their record at any time, it is recommended that members do so on an annual basis. Submissions must include details of name, address and EBU number.

A lapsed member may have valid Master Points registered on renewal of membership of the EBU.

Publication of Master Point ranks

Lists of promotions between Master Point ranks are published in every issue of *English Bridge* and county ranking lists are sent annually to the secretaries of affiliated clubs.

Rank and category prizes are awarded every year based upon the total number of Master Points earned during the competition year which runs from 1st July to 30th June. News of these prize awards is also sent club secretaries.

LICENSING OF EVENTS

Events requiring a licence

Any organisation, including affiliated clubs, must apply for an EBU licence for all 'open events' (ie an event other than for its members and *bona fide* guests) Where entry is restricted to members of the county, written application should be made to the County Association.

Where entries are not restricted to members of the county, a written application should be sent to the licensing secretary at the EBU at Aylesbury. Advice on licensing can be obtained by ringing **01296 317205**.

Minimum number of tables and boards

No event may be treated as a Points event unless the original entry was at least:

(a) 2 complete tables in a single-winner individual event,

(b) 3 complete tables in a single-winner pairs event (ie Howell type),

(c) 3 complete teams in a team event,

(d) 5 complete tables in a two-winner pairs event (ie Mitchell type),

(e) 5 complete tables in a four-winner individual event (ie a N, S, E & W winner).

All competitors must play at least 12 boards. This also applies to a multi-stage event where competitors must play at least 12 boards at each stage.

Player Awards

In order to receive the due award, all players must play at least one-third of the boards involved in the stage of the event for which an award is being made.

For example, a teams contest may allow a team to contain 6 players, of whom any 4 play at any one time. In such a case, only players who competed in at least one-third of the boards involved in any particular stage shall receive the due award.

The awards quoted in the case of a teams contest are based upon teams of 4 (this to include teams of more than 4, provided only 4 members actually compete at any one time).

Carry-forward scores

Quali-final events — competitions with qualifying rounds and a final — may allow that a certain fraction of the previous stage score may be carried forward into the next stage. Awards are still made for each separate stage of the event, including the stage(s) in which a carry-forward score is included in the final result.

Fractional awards

The scales and formulae quoted may, on occasion, lead to a fraction arising in an award due to be made to a player. On any such occasion, the award should be rounded up to a whole number. Such rounding-up should only be performed at the end of a calculation. Any fractions that may arise at intermediate stages of a calculation should be retained. Note that 'rounding up' involves resolving any fraction to the benefit of the player.

Tied positions

Ties are never broken for Master Point purposes. The competitors share equally the points applicable to the places that they would occupy were the tie to be broken. There is, however, a minimum award of 6 points which may be relevant if a tie occurs at the lowest place due to receive an award.

Events played in two or more sections

An event played in two or more sections can be treated as constituting a single field provided:

(a) the same boards are played in each section, and

(b) the competition is scored overall by match points (ie the normal pairs/individual scoring method).

For the purpose of Master Point awards, there is no such thing as a teams event – or any non-match-pointed event – played in more than one section and scored overall. Master Points must be awarded within each separate section.

Handicap events

No awards may be made in a handicap tournament. However, the tournament event may be re-scored without application of the handicap and points awarded on that basis. It should be noted that the re-scoring process would not be feasible if players had qualified for a later stage of an event, such as a ladder competition, by virtue of a handicap.

What are the scales

There are three sets of scales at the back of this booklet. The scales enable the club's issuing officer to identify the Master Points awards earned according to the type of competition. There are *Basic* scales for ordinary club duplicate sessions, *Individual* scales and *Quali-final* scales.

CLUB EVENTS ATTRACTING ENHANCED AWARDS

Club Major Championships

A club may nominate one pairs event and one teams event annually as being a 'Major Championship'. Such events must be of at least 36 boards overall duration. Only members of the club can play and the event must be unrestricted in that all members have an opportunity to win the event. 'Unrestricted' necessarily precludes a Mixed Pairs event or a multi-division league.

Major Championships attract an enhanced Master Point award of 1½ times the basic scale.

EBU National Newcomers Pairs — club heats

The issuing officer at the club issues the Master Points for the club heats. The awards are twice the basic scale.

For further details and information regarding the National Pairs club heats and the National Newcomers, please refer to the EBU *Competition Handbook.*

EBU National Pairs — club heats

Master Point certificates are issued by the club's issuing officer in the usual way, except that an enhanced award of 3 times the basic scale applies. Additionally, Green Points are included on these certificates as shown in the scale below.

Taking into account that 1 Green Point = 100 Local Points, the Local Point award due for these places is then reduced by the corresponding Green Point award.

Example: in a 13-table arrow-switched Mitchell, the first 3 pairs would ordinarily receive 162, 144 and 126 Local Points, respectively. Their actual awards are 87, 94 and 101 Local Points, respectively, in addition to a Green Point award of ¾, ½ and ¼.

Green Point awards for a National Pairs club heat

Tables	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
3 – 5 ½	¼	-	-	-
6 – 9 ½	½	¼	-	-
10 – 14 ½	¾	½	¼	-
15 +	1	¾	½	¼

Ladder events

These are a series of regular games, attracting an award of Master Points at the end of each game. An additional award may be made to the leading overall places at the end of a series.

For the purposes of awarding additional Master Points, clubs may run up to two ladder events a year. Places on the ladder may be determined by the average percentage over the series, total Master Points earned or some form of 'points for position' in each game. Provision may be made for certain scores not to count in the final ranking.

A series of regular pairs, teams or individual games may be used to determine an overall winning individual, team or pair.

There must be at least 6 results taken into account in determining the overall ranking list.

If at least 18 games are available for play in the series, the Master Point award for overall positions is enhanced to 1½ times the basic scale.

Example: 4 awards at 16 means 1st 64, 2nd 48, 3rd 32, 4th 16.

Club awards in Ladder events

Average number of tables	TEAMS	PAIRS	INDIVIDUAL
Up to 8 full tables	1 award at 27	2 awards at 16	4 awards at 8
9 – 17 full tables	2 awards at 27	4 awards at 16	8 awards at 8
18+ full tables	3 awards at 27	6 awards at 16	12 awards at 8

How to use the scales

Identify what fraction of the field is due to receive an award. For short events of 12–17 boards only, this will always be the top one-quarter; for a basic club event where all competitors play 18–35 boards, this will always be the top one-third; for 'all-play-through' events, where all competitors play 36+ boards, this will always be the top one-half.

Identify the number of *full* tables in the competition, and look this figure up in the appropriate column (ie in the top third, top quarter or top half column as appropriate). For the purposes of awarding Master Points, always round down to the nearest whole number. For example, for 9½ tables, read the awards appropriate to 9 tables.

Identify the movement type. For a pairs event, this may be a 'single-winner' movement (ie a Howell or a Scrambled Mitchell) or a 'two-winner' movement (ie a Mitchell-type movement, with a NS and EW winner).

The scale for a teams event is the same as for a two-winner pairs event.

A special scale is given for a single-winner individual event.

The teams scale applies, however, in the case of a four-winner individual (ie a N, S, E & W winner, where all players have played in a constant compass direction throughout). Identify the winning award in the appropriate column and row. This figure is obtained by reading across from the number of tables column into the appropriate award column (single-winner pairs or two-winner pairs).

If, on reading across, you fall on a blank space, then take the next highest figure. Awards for lower places are obtained by reading down from this winning award. When using the two-winner pairs scale, the awards quoted are those applicable to each of the two directions.

Example: taking a club pairs game of 16 tables, the awards are:

(a) For 12–17 boards,

Mitchell type: 40, 30, 20, 10 in each direction (4 awards)

Howell type: 48, 42, 36, 30 etc to 12, 6 overall (8 awards

(b) For 18–35 boards,

Mitchell type: 60, 50, 40 etc to 10 in each direction (6 awards)

Howell type: 66, 60, 54, 48 etc to 12, 6 overall (11 awards)

(c) For 36+ boards,

Mitchell type: 80, 70, 60 etc to 10 in each direction (8 awards)

Howell type: 96, 90, 84, 78 etc to 12, 6 overall (16 awards).

Special sets of scales exist for finals and for events which attract an award per winning match.

How to use the quali-final scales

Quali-final events are tournaments with qualifying rounds and a final.

Awards for the first qualifying stage are the same as a basic event, using the basic scales. If the event is a Major Championship, the award is increased to 1½ times the basic scale.

For the final itself, the point of reference on the quali-final scales is the size of the *original entry*, ie the number of full tables which played in the first qualifying stage.

The scales provide for awards to be given to the top ¼ of the original entry; for example, if 16 tables entered the event originally, awards will be given to the top 4 tables in the final (or subsequent stage). Thus, the actual size of the final is not relevant in this respect.

If less than ¼ of the original field has qualified for the final (or subsequent stage), then the top award is as stated in the quali-final scales, and *all* competitors in the final receive an award. Awards for intermediate places are calculated in accordance with the principle of constant reductions.

If the final (or subsequent stage) is of 36+ boards duration, the status of the final itself (or subsequent stage) is increased by one level over that of the first stage. For example, to twice the basic scale for a Major Championship or to 1½ times the basic scale for a non-major championship.

Likewise if the final has been preceded by two or more separate qualifying stages, the status of the final itself is increased by one level provided that no more than one-half of the original field have qualified. For example, to twice basic or 1½ times basic as appropriate.

If the final or subsequent stage is of only 12–17 boards duration, the awards are reduced to basic scale for a Major Championship or to 75% of the basic scale in a non-major championship.

It is recommended that no more than ¾ of the field qualify for a final of 18–35 boards, and no more than ½ for a final of 36+ boards. The effect of ignoring this recommendation is that a lower than usual proportion of competitors will receive an award in the final, ie less than one-third or half of the field, respectively (similar considerations are not relevant for a 12–17 board final).

Example: a club teams event of 16 teams plays a single-session qualifier followed by a final of 6 teams. In the qualifier, there are 6 awards of 60, 50 ... 10 (basic scales). In the final, there are 4 awards of 72, 54, 36 and 18.

If a subsequent qualifying stage is played in two or more sections and not 'scored across the field', then the original entry should be calculated *pro rata* across the sections.

For example, 60 tables qualify into two sections of 15 tables; take the original entry of each section as being 30 tables.

BASIC CLUB SCALE

For use in Basic single-session events and in 'all-play-through' events of 36+ boards duration

Note: for events of 12–17 boards duration, there is a theoretical maximum award of 75 points.

for events of 18–35 boards duration, there is a theoretical maximum award of 100 points.

for events of 36+ boards duration, there is a theoretical maximum award of 300 points (180 points if a qualifying stage).

for events of 72+ boards duration, the status of the event is increased by one level, eg Club → District.

12–17 BOARDS Awards to top ¼ NUMBER OF FULL TABLES	18–35 BOARDS Awards to top " NUMBER OF FULL TABLES	36+ BOARDS Awards to top ½ NUMBER OF FULL TABLES	Awards for Teams and 2-winner Pairs (Mitchell type)	Awards for 1-winner Pairs Howell Scrambled Mitchell type
	29 – 30	20	100	120
	28	19		114
	26 – 27	18	90	108
	25	17		102
	23 – 24	16	80	96
	22	15		90
27 – 28	20 – 21	14	70	84
25 – 26	19	13		78
23 – 24	17 – 18	12	60	72
21 – 22	16	11		66
19 – 20	14 – 15	10	50	60
17 – 18	13	9		54
15 – 16	11 – 12	8	40	48
13 – 14	10	7		42
11 – 12	8 – 9	6	30	36
9 – 10	7	5		30
7 – 8	5 – 6	4	20	24
5 – 6	4	3		18
3 – 4	3	2	10	12
				6

BASIC INDIVIDUAL SCALE

For use in Basic single-session events and in "all play through" events of 36+ boards duration

Notes:
i) use the basic teams scale for 4-winner individual events (ie a N S E & W winner, where the competitors have occupied the same compass position throughout the event).
ii) the basic maximum and minimum awards apply. At Club status, the theoretical maximum award is 75 pts. (12–17 boards), 100 pts. (18–35 boards) or 300 pts. (36+ boards); the minimum award is 6 pts. These figures are multiplied by the usual factor for events of a higher status.
iii) the theoretical maximum limit is reached by having 25 tables (12-35 boards) or 50 tables (36+ boards).
iv) the scales below should be extended if required, subject to the above mentioned maximum limits.
v) for events of 72+ boards duration, the status of the event is increased by 1 level.

12 – 17 BOARDS Awards to top ¼ NUMBER OF FULL TABLES	18 – 35 BOARDS Awards to top " NUMBER OF FULL TABLES	36+ BOARDS Awards to top ½ NUMBER OF FULL TABLES	'A' CLUB	'B' DISTRICT	'C' COUNTY	'D' REGIONAL	'E' NATIONAL
	20		81	122	162	243	324
	19	13	78	117	156	234	312
25			75	113	150	225	300
24	18	12	72	108	144	216	288
23	17		69	104	138	207	276
22	16		66	99	132	198	264
21			63	95	126	189	252
20	15	10	60	90	120	180	240
19	14		57	86	114	171	228
18	13	9	54	81	108	162	216
17			51	77	102	153	204
16	12	8	48	72	96	144	192
15	11		45	68	90	135	180
14	10	7	42	63	84	126	168
13			39	59	78	117	156
12	9	6	36	54	72	108	144
11	8		33	50	66	99	132
10	7	5	30	45	60	90	120
9			27	41	54	81	108
8	6	4	24	36	48	72	96
7	5		21	32	42	63	84
6	4	3	18	27	36	54	72
5			15	23	30	45	60
4	3	2	12	18	24	36	48
3	2		9	14	18	27	36
2			6	9	12	18	24
			6*	9*	12*	18*	24*

*minimum permissible award.
Minimum number of tables = 2

CLUB QUALI-FINAL SCALE

For use in a final or second/subsequent qualifying stage
and in an event attracting an award per match won

Awards to ¼ of original entry

Theoretical maximum award = 300
(180 if not the final)

Original number of full tables	Teams Scale	Pairs Scale single winner	Individual Scale single winner	Original number of full tables	Teams Scale	Pairs Scale single winner	Individual Scale single winner
32	144	176	176	64	288		
31			171	63			
30		165	165	62			
29			160	61			
28	126	154	154	60	270		
27			149	59			
26		143	143	58			
25			138	57			
24	108	132	132	56	252		
23			127	55			
22		121	121	54		297	297
21			116	53			292
20	90	110	110	52	234	286	286
19			105	51			281
18		99	99	50		275	275
17			94	49			270
16	72	88	88	48	216	264	264
15			83	47			259
14		77	77	46		253	253
13			72	45			248
12	54	66	66	44	198	242	242
11			61	43			237
10		55	55	42		231	231
9			50	41			226
8	36	44	44	40	180	220	220
7			39	39			215
6		33	33	38		209	209
5			28	37			204
4	18	22	22	36	162	198	198
3			17	35			193
		11	11	34		187	187
			6	33			182

Notes:

(1) For a 2-winners pairs *or* 4-winner individual, use the teams scale (equal awards in all directions).
(2) For a basic final (or subsequent stage) of 36+ boards, increase the status by 1 level.
(3) For a basic final (or subsequent stage) of 12–17 boards, decrease the status by 1 level (one lower than Club status is ½ of District status).
(4) For an event attracting an award per match won, add 50% if at least 72 boards are played.
(5) The theoretical maximum award is reached by having 65 original tables of teams or 55 original tables of single winner pairs/individuals. If this is not the final, then by having 40 tables or 33 tables respectively.
(6) Minimum award = 6 pts.