

ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION

REPORT to Tournament Committee by Master Points Sub-Committee.

Members: R. F. Corwen, L. Tarlo, H. Franklin, H. Collins, F.O. Bingham.

We are unanimously of the opinion that the introduction of a "Master Points Scheme", available to all Bridge players through the English Bridge Union, is practicable and should be recommended to the Council.

We consider that such a scheme would achieve two desirable objects:-
(i) Bring into greater participation in officially sponsored events large numbers of Duplicate players who now own little, if any, allegiance to the E.B.U. and (ii) Provide much needed revenue for the development of the game.

We recommend that five grades of players should be officially recognised, ranging from top-ranking experts to those who have achieved modest success at their own Clubs and similar levels and until an acceptable nomenclature has been found, we refer to these as Grades I to V.

We have studied the American Scheme in great detail and while accepting it as a basis on which to work we do not recommend its adoption in its entirety. Particularly we do not think it wise, at first, to insist that all Duplicate games at all affiliated Clubs etc. should rank for the award of Master Points - or fractions thereof - but rather that there should be strict limits on the number of such events.

Club Duplicate Events - Following is a brief outline of our proposals:-

Only Clubs affiliated to the E.B.U. through their County Associations should be permitted to participate. Any such Club may apply direct to E.B.U. for a Licence; Licence fee 10/6 in addition to current affiliation fee. Maximum number of Pairs events to be approved for any Club - 24 per Calendar Year. Additionally, one event per month, consisting either of a Teams-of-Four Contest or an Individual, may be permitted on application being made. No Master Points to be awarded in any events unless all competitors play a minimum of 18 hands and the number of Tables in play is at least:-

"Two-winner" events (Mitchell)	Five Tables
"One-winner" events (Howell)	Three Tables
Teams-of-Four	Five Tables
"Individual" games	Three Tables

The value of the awards to depend on the number of competitors and about one-third of the competitors to receive some award. (Where the number of competitors in any "field" is not exactly divisible by three, resultant factors to be "rounded up".)

Each winning contestant to receive awards according to the following schedule:-

Pairs Contest with two winning Pairs (Mitchell) .02 per table
 " " " one " " (Howell, etc.) .04 " "

Teams-of-Four events .04 " "

Individual Contests .04 " "

The award for second place to be one half (to two decimal places) of the winners' award; for third place one half of second and so on.

Minimum award - .01; Maximum award - .50

Examples:-

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
13 Table Mitchell	.26	.13	.07 ^x	.04	.02
7 Table Howell	.28	.14	.07	.04	.02
7 Table Mitchell	.14	.07	.04	nil	nil

X Computes to .065 but third decimal places "rounded up".

Certificates to be issued by Club Tournament Director indicating name of awardee and type of contest - number of tables - and value of award. Certificates to be retained by winners until they total in value one full point, when they should be sent by competitor to E.B.U. for registration, and exchange for a full Master Point Certificate (any balance over 1.0 being carried forward).

(We would interpolate here that we propose that players be admitted to Grade V when their score reaches one full point - attainable by winning four or five normal Club events or comparable results in second and lower positions).

REVENUE from Club Events - Certificates to be supplied by E.B.U. to Clubs at a charge of ninepence each.

Clubs to be provided with a small initial supply "on credit" to be paid for when further supplies required.

We would make it obligatory on the Club to issue certificates to all entitled competitors, without the necessity of confirming that such competitors are members of the E.B.U.

On receipt by E.B.U. of first certificates, a permanent record be started (subject to confirmation from E.B.U. records of membership).

The cost to the Club (or the competitors) would be on the basis of approximately threepence per competitor (e.g. 11 Table Mitchell - 16 certificates at 9d. = Twelve shillings).

Additional club events - Any bona-fide Club regularly staging "M.P." events would also be permitted (on prior approval) to award points to winners, etc. of an Annual Championship - Pairs and Teams and Individual, the awards to be double those made in regular events.

Licensed Congresses - (organised by County Associations and other approved bodies). We recommend:-

Any approved body organising a Licensed Congress may apply for the award of Master Points at all events to be played during the Congress.

Fee payable to E.B.U. - One shilling per table in play at each session (e.g. a six-session Congress averaging 60 tables per session = £18.) plus present licence fee of £10 (or 1/- per player). Licence fee payable after Congress on certificate by organisers of numbers competing.

Congress organisers would not be asked to issue certificates at the time (this we feel would put too heavy a strain on the organisation or would need an additional member of the staff at too great expense) but to send to E.B.U. full list of winners. The E.B.U. to make the appropriate awards and forward certificates.

Scale of Awards at Licensed Congresses

Open Pairs Events - as for Club Duplicate games. (Winners of normal event approx. .25)

Events (Teams and Pairs) with Qualifying Rounds - Qualifying rounds - double Club Duplicate awards. (Winners of normal pairs section .50)

Final:- Five times Club Duplicate awards (winners could expect 2.50 points)

If finals are run in two or more sessions, 50% of "one session" awards added for each extra session.

"Restricted" events - (e.g. Men only, women only) Above awards reduced by 25%.

Congress Open Pairs Final - (open to winners of any Open Pairs) Double open Pairs award.

For any events not covered above (or more detailed schedule eventually adopted) a scale of awards would be assessed in advance by Master Points Committee of E.B.U. on application by organisers.

National Congresses - (organised by E.B.U.) Awards as for Licensed Congress plus 50%

Other Congresses - (e.g. Scotch, Welsh, Irish and "closed" events no requiring a licence) Awards assessed in advance by E.B.U. Committee on application and payment of appropriate fees.

County Association Events - Master Points would be awarded for all approved events. Certificates supplied by E.B.U. in advance (price ninepence each)

Counties to recoup by increased entry fee at own discretion.

Value of awards to be dependent on initial entry and no detailed scheme can be formed until Counties wishing to participate submit programmes.

Suggestion is that each member of team winning County Championship (carrying right of entries to Pachabo) should receive approx. 4.5 Master Points if original entry was 16 teams - scaled up or down according to size of entry - any win in rounds prior to final to receive proportionate awards.

County Pairs Championship - Awards:-

Qualifying Rounds - As for Club events.

Semi-finals - Twice the award for Qualifying Round.

Final - Five times award for Qualifying Round.

Subject to a maximum award not exceeding 75% of same County Teams Championship.

County Individual Championship

Qualifying Rounds - as for Club games

Semi-final - Twice the award for Qualifying Round

Final - Five times the award for Qualifying Round.

Any other contests:- assessed by E.B.U.

Inter-County Events - These are known to exist but full details not available to sub-Committee (Examples - Silver, Gilt Trophy - Northern and Midland Associations). Cheltenham Rose Bowl (Gloucester C.B.A.) Frank Cup (open to all Midland Counties) To be assessed by E.B.U. - Awards roughly comparable to main events at Congresses.

National Events

Gold Cup - On an assumed original entry not exceeding 64 teams* we provisionally assess the award to each member of the team winning the trophy as lying between a minimum of 45 and a maximum of 75 Master Points.

(* 40 E.B.U. and 24 other members of the B.B.L.)

Basic award to winners 160 points plus 4 points for each team competing - divided equally between all members playing a minimum of 24 boards in the Final. Example:-

Entry	50 teams	- Points awarded to winners
	160 + (50 x 4)	= 360
Winning team of 4	- 75	points each (maximum permitted)
" " " 5	- 72	" "
" " " 6	- 60	" "

Runners-up - Half of winner's awards (limited to 37.5 points per player)

Minimum qualification:- having played at least 16 boards in semi-final

Winning Quarter-finalists:- (losers in Semi-final) 6 points to each player playing at least 16 boards in quarter-final.

Winners of round preceding Quarter-final - 4 points per player playing at least 16 boards.

Winners of all previous rounds - 1 point per player.

The awards to winners and defeated finalists given above would be the net points (i.e. points gained in earlier rounds would not be additional to these awards.) Any team members not qualifying for award in semi-final or final would be credited, however, with his/her personal awards in earlier rounds. All points awarded in Gold Cup contest rank as National Master Points.

Crockfords Cup - (Eight-team final)

Finalists - 4 points (to each member playing one fourth of boards) for each match won. 2 points to each member in drawn matches. 1 point to each playing member in earlier rounds. Maximum per player on this basis would be (4x7) + 2 or 3 from earlier rounds, say 30. All points rank as "National Points".

Hubert Phillips Bowl

Winners - 100 points; Runners-up 50 points; Quarter-final winners 25 points. All above shared between playing members and points won in earlier rounds not additional thereto:

Earlier rounds:- 1 point to member of any winning team. All points count as "National Points".

Whitelaw Cup

Winners: 60 points, divided between playing members of winning team.

Other results proportionately. All points count as "National Points".

Pachabo

10 points to each playing member of winning team, other results proportionately, down to .75 point. No points count as "National Points".

Camrose Trials (if any)

Regarded as three-session National Congress Pairs Event. Awards on that basis.

Ladies Individual

Winners of Final	5 points)	
Runner-up	2½ ")	National Points
Third	1½ points, Fourth	.75 ")

Ladies Individual (Regional Heats)

Winner 2.5 (maximum - scaled down by .1 for each player below 25 in smaller fields).

National Pairs

Qualifying rounds - As for Club games.

Area Semi-final (if any) Twice above

Area Final:- Maximum award to winners (calculated on the basis of National Congress) 10 points (each player) following positions reduced by 50% - minimum award .25.

National Final

Winners - 20 points each	2nd	10 points each
3rd 5 " "	4th, 5th and	2.5 " "
7th-11th 1.25 " "	6th	
18th-22nd .50 " "	12th-17th	.75 " "

Points in National Final only rank as National Points.

Other Contests - e.g. B.B.L. events - Lady Milne Cup, Portland Pairs, etc. to be assessed on application by B.B.L.

As stated above, we recommend five gradings:-

Grade V	1 Master Point	
" IV	15 " "	
" III	50 " "	(including at least 5 National Points)
" II	100 " "	" " " 15 " "
" I	200 " "	" " " 30 " "

These gradings and the awards for the various competitions are, of course, subject to amendment in the light of close scrutiny.

We realize that some types of contest are after consideration deliberately excluded from our recommendations - notably League contests and other events such as the Tollemache, which are not open competitions.

We consider that it is hardly practicable to launch the scheme until the beginning of the 1955-56 season. To make a start, as originally hoped, at the Spring Congress would, we feel, necessitate including most if not all competitions in the 1955-56 season, which would have to be started without prior knowledge by competitors of the Master Point values involved. Nor would it be possible for County Associations to decide on the necessity or otherwise of revising Entry fees.