

#### A DESCRIPTION OF THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION'S MASTER POINTS SCHEME.

The Scheme was introduced by the English Bridge Union in September, 1956. The first names to be registered were those of eleven players who shared the distinction of having won the European Championship. All eleven were appointed Honorary Life Masters. In ten years the eleven names have grown to over 12,000, graded in the following ranks: Grand Master, Life Master, National Master, Regional Master, Five grades of Star Master, Master, County Master, Local Master and Club Master.

Almost all duplicate bridge tournaments in England, if they are conducted by bodies or clubs which are in any way associated with the English Bridge Union, qualify for the award of Master Points. You can earn Master Points in the familiar surroundings of your own club duplicate as well as in the rarified atmosphere of the major National Championships. There are two types of points: the ordinary Master Points and National Master Points. National Master Points are awarded only in National Competitions organised by the English Bridge Union. Grand Master, Life Master and National Master, and Regional Master ranks require a specific number of National Master Points.

The obvious question is, what benefit does the Master Point Scheme offer to the duplicate player, other than a sop to his vanity. The readiest answer is that most of us, and especially in these travel-conscious days, find many occasions when it is helpful to be able roughly to identify one's status as a bridge player. The Master Points Scheme was first introduced in the U.S.A. Today there is scarcely a bridge-playing country in Europe which does not operate a scheme, and the Far East, the Middle East and the Antipodes are other known areas of participation. Cyprus, Bahrain, and Hong Kong all operate within the E.B.U. scheme. In almost any part of the world where organised duplicate bridge is played, your status as a bridge player will be recognised by the position or rank you hold in our own Master Points Scheme.

There are further advantages nearer home. Master Points Restricted Competitions, open only to ranked players, are held annually both at a National and at a Local rank. The E.B.U. and various County organisations offer special incentive prizes to players who make the greatest advance in a season and the Sunday Telegraph offers a trophy and prize for the leading score in non-National point events.

The Master Points register is maintained in the form of a card index. As soon as you submit your first certificate of award to the Secretary a personal Record Card is posted to you and you are issued with a certificate of rank each time you achieve a new grade. Promotions to every grade will be published in every future issue of the E.B.U. Quarterly.

# MASTER POINTS RANKS

Club Master	2 M.P's
Local Master	10
County Master	25
Master	50
One Star Master	100
Two Star Master	150
Three Star Master	200
Four Star Master	250
Five Star Master	300
Regional Master	100 (incl. 25 National Points)
National Master	150 (incl. 75 National Points)
Life Master	300 (incl. 150 National Points)
Grand Master	1200 (incl. 600 National Points)

County subscriptions are approx. 50p per annum which includes E.B.U. membership.

Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of the E.B.U.:  
Mrs. A.L. Flening, 12, Frant Road, Tunbridge Wells (Tunbridge Wells 30612) (for general information)

The Master Points Secretary and Registrar of the E.B.U.: Mrs. Anne Staveley, 31, High Street, Thane, Oxon., (Thane 2221) (for information on Master Points and E.B.U. subscriptions).

The Competition Manager: Dr. E.S. Staveley, 31, High Street, Thane, Oxon., (Thane 2221) (for information on E.B.U. Tournaments).