

# Master Points

## AN OUTLINE OF THE NEW SCHEME

The long-heralded Master Points Scheme of the English Bridge Union has now been worked out to the last detail and will come into operation on September 1st, 1956.

The essence of the scheme is that by virtue of success in a wide range of competitive events players will attain to various degrees of master rank.

Points will be of two kinds: Master Points and Local Points. Master Points will be the unit of award only in important open events. In club games, county games, and qualifying rounds of all kinds, the unit will be Local Points, of which 100 will equal 1 Master Point. In proportion to their success in approved events, players will be able to earn the following titles:—

1. **Club Master** (2 M.P.).
2. **Local Master** (15 M.P.).
3. **County Master** (50 M.P.).
4. **National Master**  
(150 M.P.).
5. **Life Master** (300 M.P.).

To attain the two highest ranks, 50% of the points must

be Master Points won in national events, as opposed to converted Local Points.

The scheme is not retrospective, but the Master Points Committee may make honorary awards to players of outstanding achievement.

### *How Points are Won*

Clubs which have applied for a Licence will be authorised to hold a limited number of events each month for which Local Points will be awarded. Approximately one-third of the competitors in an event will win an award of some kind, and Local Point Certificates will be given to the players immediately after the event. Similar procedure will be followed in County, Congress, and National events. When a player has accumulated 100 Local Points he will be able to exchange them, through the Master Points Secretary, for 1 Master Point, and as he attains the various Master ranks he will be sent a Certificate denoting his grade.

### *The Financial Basis*

Players will not pay directly for Certificates, but there will be a small charge for books of Certificates that are issued to the organisers of tournaments. In effect, the indirect cost of a certificate will work out at 3d. per player per session. This will be paid for, as a rule, by way of a small increase in entry fees.

### *The Master Points Brochure*

Club and county secretaries have already been acquainted with the outlines of the scheme, and a brochure is in preparation which will explain the basis on which points will be awarded for every kind of tournament. Thus, suppose that a club is running a 7-table Howell, or a 13-table Mitchell, on a particular day; a glance at the table showing Basic Awards for Howell, or Basic Awards for Mitchell, will show the number of Local Points that can be won by each of the leading competitors. Club championships, events lasting over more than one session, Congress events, all are taken into account.

### *Examples of Awards*

The general principle on which awards for a Mitchell Pairs are based is that the winning pairs,

North - South and East - West, score twice as many Local Points as there are tables. Thus, in a 13-table Mitchell, the winners on each line would score 26 Local Points, the runners-up 13, the third pair 7, the fourth pair 4, and the fifth pair 2.

It can be said that a player who is averagely successful in club duplicates will attain to the rank of Club Master in about a year, even if he scores no points elsewhere. County events and, of course, national events, carry much higher awards. The winners of the National Pairs will score about 25 Master Points, of the Gold Cup from 45 to 70 Master Points.

### *Objects of the Scheme*

It is believed that the Master Point system, by providing a link between manifold tournaments at present unrelated, and by setting up standards to which all players can aspire, will greatly stimulate interest in competitive bridge. In addition, the revenue from the scheme will yield, almost unnoticed by the individual player, a steady income from a wide field, which will be put back into the game for the benefit of all who have contributed to it.