

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

MASTERPOINTS SCHEME

(REVISED SEPT 2016)

INTRODUCTION

Masterpoints recognise the achievement of a player. Each NIBU member has an individual Masterpoint number and may view on the Union website the number of Masterpoints he holds. The site is updated frequently.

Masterpoints are awarded for each duplicate competition held by an affiliated club provided they are notified to the NIBU Masterpoints Secretary.

Masterpoints are also awarded for all competitions – leagues, pairs and teams - organised by or under the auspices of the NIBU.

The Masterpoints awarded are linked to the number of players in the event and the number of boards played.

Each club Masterpoints Secretary should forward to the NIBU Masterpoints Secretary a list of points awarded in their club duplicate sessions, plus all points awarded in Simultaneous Pairs and Interclub Duplicate competitions, in players' alphabetical order and including all MP numbers, before 24 May each year. The list should include all visitors to the club as well as members.

It is essential that all players know their MP number, rank and grading to ensure that they do not participate in any event for which they are ineligible.

TYPES OF POINTS

Players obtain points for successful participation in events for which points are authorised. There are two types of Masterpoints (MPs):

- (i) National (usually referred to as Red) points – these are won in many events of national standing (see Appendix A – Pairs and Appendix B – Teams) and are necessary for the acquisition of certain senior ranks. The value of a Red point is 100 Local points.
- (ii) Local points – these are awarded in club events and in union congresses and other events. They are converted into Masterpoints at the rate of 100 Local points = 1 Masterpoint.

MASTERPOINTS RANKS AND GRADES

A player's accumulated holding of Red points and Local points can be expressed together under the general term of Masterpoints.

Every NIBU member has a rank based on his total of Masterpoints. Appendix C sets out the Masterpoints Ranks and the requirements to attain each rank.

All members are also graded at one of 5 levels, ie Novice, Intermediate B, Intermediate A, Senior and Expert. Some competitions, including leagues, are restricted to players below a specified grade.

Appendix D defines the various grades.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF TABLES AND BOARDS

No event may be treated as a points competition unless the original entry is at least:

- (i) 2 complete tables in a single-winner individual event
- (ii) 3 complete tables in a single-winner pairs event
- (iii) 3 complete tables in a teams event
- (iv) 3 complete tables in a two-winner pairs event.

No event may be treated as a points event unless all competitors play at least 18 boards.

PLAYER AWARDS All awards quoted are per player.

It is a general principle that a player must play at least one-third of the boards involved in the stage of the event for which an award is made in order to receive the due award.

TIES

Ties are never broken for Masterpoints purposes. The competitors share equally the points applicable to the places they would occupy if the ties were broken.

HANDICAP EVENTS

Points may be awarded in a Handicap event provided it is re-scored without application of the handicap.

AFFILIATED CLUBS

Each club may award Masterpoints in accordance with the rules laid down for an unlimited number of basic duplicate sessions (18-35 boards).

In addition, each club may nominate up to two events per annum as championship events.

For these competitions, which must be of at least 36 boards duration, Masterpoints awarded will be double the normal awards.

These awards are based on the Basic Club Scale (see Appendix E).

EVENTS ATTRACTING AN AWARD PER MATCH WON

The most common types of event are Swiss Pairs/Teams, Leagues and Knock-Out Cups. Events must be of at least 36 boards duration and matches must be of at least 6 boards. In knock-out events the award increases as the competition progresses. Each such match must be of at least 18 boards.

AWARDS FOR NIBU NATIONAL RED POINT EVENTS

Premier Red Point Events:

NI Pairs; NI Mixed Pairs; NI Teams

Secondary Red Point Events:

North Down Pairs; East Down Pairs; Belfast Pairs; Northern Pairs; Mid-Ulster Pairs;

Provincial Mixed Pairs; East Down Teams; Allan Mixed Teams (if 2 sessions).

The Red point awards for the above events will be calculated as follows:

Winners receive an award equal to 25% of the number of tables in play at which partnerships are graded Intermediate A or higher, with lower place awards to the top one third of tables, based on the principle of constant reduction.

The 3 Premier events will attract an additional 2 Red points for the winners. There will be no increase in awards to the lower places.

Autumn and Spring Congresses

Red points are awarded as follows:

Senior Pairs: Winners receive an award equal to 30% of tables with lower place awards to the top one third of tables, based on the principle of constant reduction. (Local points are also awarded to half-way).

Swiss Teams: If fewer than 20 teams awards are 5-3-2-1 red points to top 4 places;
If 20 - 30 teams awards are 6-4-3-2-1 red points to top 5 places;
If 30 - 40 teams awards are 7-5-4-3-2-1 red points to top 6 places.

(In addition, there is a Red point award of $\frac{1}{4}$ for each match win or draw).

Leagues

Premier I: Match win 1 Red point, draw $\frac{1}{2}$; Overall 6-4-2 to top 3 places;

Premier II: Match win $\frac{1}{2}$ Red point, draw $\frac{1}{4}$; Overall 2-1 to top 2 places.

Knock-Out Cups

Kelvin Cup: Early round match win 1 Red point; semi-final win 3; final win 5;

Mackinnon Cup: Early round match win 1 Red point; semi-final win 2; final win 3;

Millership Cup: Early round match win $\frac{1}{4}$ Red point; semi-final win $\frac{1}{2}$; final win 1.

Trials

Camrose: 8-6-4-2 Red points (if 8 pairs), otherwise 6-4-2;

Lady Milne: 4-3-2-1 Red points (if 8 pairs), otherwise 2-1.

Egan Trophy (IBU event)

Match win >15-5, ½ National point, win/draw <15 to 10-10, 0.2 National point;

Overall 8-6-4-2-1 National points to top 5 places.

AWARDS FOR NIBU NATIONAL LOCAL POINT COMPETITIONS

Pairs and Teams

Unless otherwise specified, awards for the following competitions are dependent upon the number of tables in play as per the NIBU National Local point scale (see Appendix F):

All Pairs or Teams events which are restricted to Inter A, Inter B, Inter A/B, Inter A/Senior, InterB/Senior participants;

Autumn and Spring Congress Inter A Pairs, Inter B Pairs, Mixed Pairs;

Helm Cup Teams: Match win/draw 20 Local points; Overall 1st, 2nd, 3rd if 8 teams, otherwise 1st and 2nd only;

Lupane Cup Teams: Match win 10 Local points; Overall 40-30-20-10 Local points to top 4;

Louis Herbert Handicap Pairs;

Mr Monty Handicap Pairs.

Senior, Inter A/B and Novice Leagues

Senior: Match win 50 Local points, draw 25; Overall 300 - 150 to top 2 places;

Inter A/B: Match win 40 Local points, draw 20; Overall 240 - 120 to top 2 places;

Novice: Match win 10 Local points, draw 5; Overall 90 - 45 to top 2 places.

APPENDIX A

National Point Competitions - Pairs

<i>Northern Ireland Pairs</i>	The premier NIBU pairs competition held over 2 sessions.
<i>North Down Pairs</i>	Open pairs held in North Down area over 2 sessions
<i>East Down Pairs</i>	Open pairs held in East Down area over 2 sessions
<i>Belfast Pairs</i>	Open pairs held in Belfast area over 2 sessions
<i>Northern Pairs</i>	Open pairs held in L'Derry area over 2 sessions
<i>Mid-Ulster Pairs</i>	Open pairs held in mid-Ulster area over 2 sessions
<i>Spring Congress Pairs</i>	Open pairs held over 2 sessions. Players need not be members of a club affiliated to the Union
<i>Autumn Congress Pairs</i>	Open pairs held over 2 sessions. Players need not be members of a club affiliated to the Union
<i>Camrose Trials</i>	
<i>Lady Milne Trials</i>	
<i>Northern Ireland Mixed Pairs</i>	Each pair must consist of one lady and one gentleman
<i>Provincial Mixed Pairs</i>	Each pair must consist of one lady and one gentleman

APPENDIX B

National Point Competitions - Teams

KNOCK-OUT COMPETITIONS

<i>Kelvin Cup</i>	Premier NIBU knock-out competition open to any team of up to 6 players
<i>Mackinnon Cup</i>	Open to any team of 4 - 6 players. The team captain must play with every other member of the team [only 4 players may play in a match]
<i>Millership Cup</i>	Knock-out team competition restricted to players graded below Expert

LEAGUES

<i>Premier League Division 1</i>	
<i>Premier League Division 2</i>	

TWO SESSION TEAMS/SWISS TEAMS

<i>Northern Ireland Teams</i>	The premier NIBU teams competition held over 2 sessions
<i>East Down Teams</i>	Open teams held in East Down area over 2 sessions
<i>Allen Trophy</i>	Team event. Each partnership must comprise one lady and one gentleman. Usually held over 2 sessions
<i>Spring Congress teams</i>	Open teams held over 2 sessions. Players need not be members of a club affiliated to the Union
<i>Autumn Congress teams</i>	Open teams held over 2 sessions. Players need not be members of a club affiliated to the Union

APPENDIX C

Master Point Ranks

The ranks attainable by Union members are determined by the number of Master Points held as follows:-

<i>Unranked</i>	less than 200 Master Points
<i>Club Master</i>	200 Master Points
<i>Local Master</i>	1,000 Master Points
<i>County Master</i>	2,500 Master Points
<i>Master</i>	5,000 Master Points
<i>Advanced Master</i>	7,500 Master Points
<i>Star Master</i>	10,000 Master Points A* is added for each additional 10,000 MPs
<i>Tournament Master</i>	40,000 Master Points A* is added for each additional 10,000 MPs
<i>Junior Provincial Master</i>	10,000 Master Points - inc. 25 National Points A* is added for each additional 10,000 MPs
<i>Senior Provincial Master</i>	20,000 Master Points - inc. 50 National Points A* is added for each additional 10,000 MPs
<i>National Master</i>	30,000 Master Points - inc. 75 National Points
<i>Premier National Master</i>	40,000 Master Points - inc. 100 National Points
<i>Life Master</i>	60,000 Master Points - inc. 150 National Points
<i>Premier Life</i>	90,000 Master Points - inc. 300 National Points
<i>Grand Master</i>	600 National Points
<i>Premier Grand Master</i>	1,500 National Points

APPENDIX D

Master Point Grades

A *Novice* player is one who, on the first of September of the year concerned, has less than 200 Local points.

An *Intermediate 'B'* player is one who, on the first of September of the year concerned, holds less than 7,500 Local points and who has not represented their country at any level, nor represented any province at inter-provincial level, and who has not won an open Northern Ireland Bridge Union competition.

An *Intermediate 'A'* player is one who, on the first of September of the year concerned, holds more than 7,500 local points but less than 30,000 local points or less than 10 National Points and who has not represented their country at Senior level, nor represented any province at Senior inter-provincial level.

A *Senior* player is one who, on the first of September of the year concerned, holds more than 30,000 local points or more than 10 National Points but less than 100 National Points and has not represented their country at Camrose level nor Ireland at any Senior level.

A *Expert* player is one who, on the first of September of the year concerned, has more than 100 National Points or has represented their country at Camrose level or Ireland at any Senior level.

The *Grading Committee* has, however, the right to take into consideration a player's experience, general competence and such factors as they may consider relevant in assigning a grade to a player.

Appeals Any player wishing to appeal their grading must do so in writing to the Master Points Secretary (emails are acceptable).

A *Non-Expert* player is a member of the Northern Ireland Bridge Union who, on the first of September of the year concerned, has not been graded Expert

APPENDIX E

BASIC CLUB SCALE

For use in Basic single-session events and in “all-play-through” events of 36+ boards duration
 For Club Championship events these awards are doubled

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

APPENDIX F

NATIONAL SCALE

for use in Basic single-session events and in “all-play-through” events of 36+ boards duration

BASIC EVENTS 18-35 BOARDS Awards to top 1/3 NUMBER OF FULL TABLES	Awards for Teams and 2-winner Pairs (Mitchell type)	Awards for 1-winner Pairs Howell & Scrambles Mitchell type	36+ BOARDS Award to top 1/2 NUMBER OF FULL TABLES	N.I. PAIRS SCALE	36+ BOARDS 21-40 full tables	Awards for Teams and 2-winner Pairs	Awards for 1-winner Pairs
29-30	400	480	20	720	40	800	960
28		456	19	684	39		936
26-27	360	432	18	648	38	760	912
25		408	17	612	37		888
23-24	320	384	16	576	36	720	864
22		360	15	540	35		840
20-21	280	336	14	504	34	680	816
19		312	13	468	33		792
17-18	240	288	12	432	32	640	768
16		264	11	396	31		744
14-15	200	240	10	360	30	600	720
13		216	9	324	29		696
11-12	160	192	8	288	28	560	672
10		168	7	252	27		648
8-9	120	144	6	216	26	520	624
7		120	5	180	25		600
5-6	80	96	4	144	24	480	576
4		72	3	108	23		552
3	40	48	2	72	22	440	528
		24		36	21		504