

The Master Point Scheme

The English Bridge Union Master Point Scheme came into operation in September 1956 to enable recognition of players' achievements. The scheme provides a comprehensive ranking system beginning with Local Master and continuing right up to the highest rank of Premier Grand Master. Affiliated clubs value the scheme for its unique incentives in helping to promote and retain club membership. Novice players in particular appreciate gaining Master Points and having their achievements recognised by progressing up the ranks.

Players obtain points by success in duplicate bridge competitions, on a scale which varies according to the success itself, the size of the competition and its status. About the top one-third of players in a competition are entitled to Master Points. The register of Master Points is kept at the offices of the English Bridge Union. Only members of the EBU may register their points and have their records maintained. Lapsed members may have their records revived and valid Master Points registered on renewal of membership of the EBU.

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 expert players.

- **Local (Black) Points:** These are awarded at any duplicate session, including club duplicates, complying with the normal rules and regulations of the Master Points 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. The value of a Green Point is 100 Local Points (so $1\frac{1}{2}$ Green Points = 150 Local Points and, since the advent of decimalised Green Points, 2.28 Green Points = 228 Local Points).
- **Gold Points:** Any performance in a single event which merits an award of five Green Points or more automatically receives Gold Points in addition to the Green Points award (e.g. an award of 6 green points equates to 1.2 Gold points, i.e. 6 divided by 5)

Master Points Ranks

The ranks up to and including Tournament Master only require a player to have a specified number of Local Points (some of which may have been awarded as Green Points). The ranks of Premier Master and above require a player to have a specified number of both Local and Green Points. For example, 7,500 Local Points and 25 Green Points qualify the holder as a Regional Master.

- [Full list of Master Point ranks and requirements](#)

Registration of Master Points

Master Points gained in competitions are registered with the EBU by the clubs and tournament organisers. Clubs upload their session (p2p) files via the club's member area on the EBU website – see the section on the P2P System in this Handbook. Note that such Master Points will immediately appear in the session files shown in the member area for both clubs and individual members, but they will not be transferred to the permanent Master Point record, and thus not appear on a member's total, until the month following the upload by a club. This is in order to give club administrators time to correct any mistakes in their sessions.

Master Point certificates from past years may still be registered by individual members as long as the certificates are within their period of validity, usually three years from the date of issue. These should be sent in by post and must be accompanied by details of name, address and EBU number.

Viewing Master Point Records

Members may view their Master Point record at any time by logging in to their [personal member area](#) on the EBU website using their EBU (User) number and password. They may also request an update of their Master Point status directly from the EBU by calling the office on 01296 317201 or emailing points@ebu.co.uk.

Publication of Promotions

All [promotions between Master Point ranks](#) are published monthly on the EBU web-site and from mid-2011 also in the Member's personal areas. [Ranking lists by County](#) are published annually with Clubs and Counties being informed when they are available to view.

Four Landmark Promotions are recognised: Master, Regional Master, Life Master and Grand Master. These are processed three times a year and published in the *English Bridge* issues in April, August and December. Promotions to Local Master (and, if space allows, Club Master) are published in each issue of the magazine.

Each Bridge Club will receive every month a list of all their members' promotions. This will be provided through the club's member area on the EBU website. (To be implemented.) It is good practice to publicise your club members' promotions through your club website, newsletter and by announcements in the club since members appreciate such recognition.

Master Point Competitions and Prizes

Members who achieve one of the Landmark Promotions receive a congratulatory letter from the EBU Chairman, a certificate of rank attained and a good quality pen, along with free entry to the Ranked Masters Pairs (subject to space availability). Other promotions are entered into a four-monthly Master Point Prize Draw taking place in March, July and November of each year.

Rank and category prizes are awarded every year based upon the total number of Master Points earned during the competition year, which runs from 1 January to 31 December. The "**Daily Telegraph**" **Salver** and free entry to the Spring Bank Holiday Congress are presented to the player who has won the most black points in the competition year.

The **National Awards** are based on black and green points won in the year, and then broken down into three categories:

- Category 1 - Life Masters and above
- Category 2 – National & Premier National Masters
- Category 3 – Regional and Premier Regional

The **County Awards** are based on black and green points won in the year and then broken down into three categories:

- Category 4 - Star, Tournament and Premier Masters
- Category 5 - County Masters, Masters, Advanced Masters
- Category 6 - Unranked, Local, Club, Area, District Masters

The top player in each category in each county receives a cash prize. This is credited to the member's account.

The **Club Awards** are based on black points won solely in a club's own events. The player in each club who has won the most black points in that club's events is

- Published on the EBU website
- Entered into an Annual Prize Draw for cash prizes (credited to the members' accounts).

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