



NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



First Floor, 162 Goulburn Street, East Sydney 2010.

Telephone: 9264 8111 E-mail: office@nswba.com.au Web: www.nswba.com.au

ABN 61 000 438 648

The Under 100 Masterpoints Championship (UHMP)

February 2022

Dear Club Secretary,

70% of the registered active players in the state have fewer than 100 MPs; for most clubs this represents the majority of your members. The NSWBA introduced the UHMP in 2015 to provide clubs, especially the far-flung country clubs, with an event tailored to this <100 MP membership profile.

Pre-Covid, the Under 10 MP group comprised 34% of registered players, but it has now dropped to 32% and I suspect it will drop again at the end of March when cancellations are processed by the Masterpoint Centre. The pandemic and associated lockdowns have had a severe impact on clubs and their beginners. The UHMP was another victim of the lockdowns and was cancelled in both 2020 and 2021. But we're back in 2022 using the same format as when we last ran. A quick overview follows, for those who are unfamiliar with the event.

The Under 100 Masterpoint Pairs Championship is played in two completely independent stages. The first stage consists of normal club sessions played in September and/or October. These club sessions are stratified, *i.e.* all players, including non-participants, play against each other. Even though they play against players with lots of masterpoints, pairs only compete for masterpoints against those in the same bracket: 0-10, 10-25, 25-50 or 50-100. There is a \$4 per pair per session entry fee.

The second stage consists of a single session played in the week 21-27 November in which only players with fewer than 100 MPs can play. All clubs play the same hands and the event is scored across the state and then handicapped. There is a \$6 per pair entry fee.

The following pages describe how the UHMP will work in 2022. Please participate, encourage all your eligible players to enter and revitalise the event. The future success or failure of the UHMP is in your hands.

Warren Lazer
UHMP Organiser



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NSW <100 Masterpoint Pairs Championships

<https://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2022&E=uhmp>

The Under 100 Masterpoint Pairs Championship is played in two independent stages and in four masterpoint divisions (see table below).

Masterpoint range	% of registered active NSW players
0-9.99 MP	32%
10-24.99 MP	14%
25-49.99 MP	12%
50-99.99 MP	12%

The first stage consists of club sessions played in your home club. This requires little extra effort by a club - just select appropriate matchpoint pairs session(s) in September and/or October. These club sessions are stratified, *i.e.* all players, including non-participants, play against each other. The top 50% of the players in each masterpoint group will receive some red masterpoints. Where possible, awards are maximised by combining two or more MP groups. If you run supervised play sessions, consider converting one of them into a UHMP session. It's a good opportunity to get the supervised players to go solo and they will get red masterpoints instead of green. Club sessions can be held any time during September and October.

The second stage consists of a Local Final. Unlike the club sessions, all Local Finals will play the same boards and the results will be matchpointed across the state. A dedicated website allows club organisers to log in and download the hand records and dealing files. All clubs then email their results to be scored across the state.

After handicapping, the final results and prize list is posted on the NSWBA website. Prizes and certificates are awarded based on the handicapped results.

Ideally, Local Finals will be scattered around the state, with each attracting players who live less than 90 minutes away. The NSWBA will be charging \$3.00 per player - *i.e.* each club holding a Local Final will be invoiced \$6 per pair. The NSWBA will continue to pay for all the B4s masterpoints issued in Local Finals. Clubs holding Local Finals set their own entry fees; clearly this will differ widely depending whether the Final is part of an all-day event or just a regular club session.

If you wish to conduct a Local Final, apply by completing the online registration form at www.nswba.com.au/forms/under100mpfinal.asp. It would be sensible to discuss your intention to hold a Local Final with other clubs in the region first. Clubs holding Local Finals will be listed on the UHMP website.

Registration.

All clubs planning to hold one or more club sessions need to register by completing the online form at www.nswba.com.au/forms/under100mp.asp - there's also a link from the UHMP website: www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2022&E=uhmp. Participating clubs and all the latest information will also be shown on the UHMP website.



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Masterpoints.

This event is a chance for your players to earn red masterpoints in their local club at State Championship level B4s. Half of the pairs in each of the four divisions will receive masterpoints, so players in the 0-10 group need not worry that they are competing against players in the 50-100 division. Awards increase as the number of pairs increases, so it's to everyone's advantage to encourage all eligible players to pair up and enter the UHMP. Remember, the NSWBA will pay for all the red masterpoints issued.

Costs.

Club Qualifying Events: \$2.00 per player per session (*i.e.* \$4.00 per pair), payable to the NSWBA. Players with >100 masterpoints and those eligible but not wishing to enter the UHMP do not pay anything (other than normal table money to your club).

Local Finals: \$3.00 per player (*i.e.* \$6.00 per pair). Clubs hosting the Local Finals should factor in this NSWBA charge when setting the entry fee.

The NSWBA will invoice all participating clubs in December. **Do not pay anything until you receive an invoice.**

Dates.

Club sessions can be held anytime in September or October. Local Finals can be held anytime in the week 21st - 27th November.

Scoring and handicapping.

The NSWBA recognises that the relative number of pairs in each MP division may differ greatly from one Local Final to another. Clearly all pairs' prospects are directly affected (either negatively or positively) by the overall strength of the Local Final they contest. Consequently all pairs will be given a handicap based on the average strength of their Local Final and their own MP holding. Raw and handicapped results of all Local Finals will be posted on the NSWBA website. All masterpoint awards are based on non-handicapped results. You can see how this works in practice by checking out the results for the 2019 UHMP.

Prizes

Most prizes will be awarded on the basis of the handicapped results and will be awarded in each of the four divisions. Prizes will include free entry to the Australian Restricted Butler Pairs Championship at the 2023 ANC in Perth (donated by the ABF), cash, certificates and subscriptions to the online Edition of the Australian Bridge magazine.

In summary, this event is designed to offer red masterpoints (at no cost to your club) to your members who have fewer than 100 masterpoints. Eligible players are then encouraged to leave the relative safety of their home club and participate against players from nearby clubs in a Local Final. It is proposed to return most of the money received in entry fees in the form of masterpoints and prizes. Do your members a service and be a club that participates.

Warren Lazer
(UHMP Tournament Organiser)