



NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



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ABN 61 000 438 648

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Dear UHMP Organiser,

Crisis Time!!! The NSWBA introduced the UHMP to provide clubs, especially the far-flung country clubs, with an event tailored to their membership. The initial UHMP entry in 2015 had over 1000 club sessions, but this has now dropped to below 600. Similarly, participation in Local Finals has dropped by about 40%, from an initial 276 pairs to 166 last year. If these trends continue I will be recommending that the NSWBA discontinue the event after 2019.

Clearly some revamping is necessary. Feedback from a number of organisers has revealed that a two session final on a Sunday is unworkable for a number of clubs. Some clubs cannot access premises on the specified date and two sessions was too long an event for many of the UHMP players. **So, in 2018, the UHMP Finals will be reduced to just a single session, played at any time from 26th November to 2nd December.** I understand that this turns the finals into a <100 MP version of the State Wide Pairs, but maybe that's a positive move. Participation in the SWP has been increasing over the last few years, so maybe we can turn the UHMP around as well.

One of the UHMP's original intentions was to provide a gentle introduction to the congress scene for new players. This aspect is not necessarily lost in the new structure. Clubs that have held successful Sunday finals in the past could continue to have two sessions by playing the designated UHMP boards in the morning session and your own boards in the (optional) afternoon session.

Handicapping is an important aspect of the UHMP finals and relies heavily on the fact that all players have fewer than 100 MPs. Clubs that decide to hold a final during a normal club session need to appreciate this requirement; you may need to split your session into two separate fields (UHMP pairs and non-UHMP pairs) and run two separate movements to satisfy this requirement. Neighbouring clubs should collaborate and hold just a single UHMP Final in their region.

The other intention of the UHMP has not been lost. It will still provide a realistic opportunity for ALL players with fewer than 100 MPs to win red masterpoints in their club sessions. Even though they play against players with lots of MPs, pairs only compete for masterpoints against those in the same masterpoint bracket: 0-10, 10-25, 25-50 or 50-100. Over 70% of the registered active players in the state have fewer than 100 MPs, so for most clubs, the UHMP is targeting the majority of your members.

The following pages describe how the UHMP will work in 2018. 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

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2018&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 | 34% |
| 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 blue. 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, and later to upload the results for scoring after play has finished. The same site allows players to see raw scores as well as frequency tables for every board played.

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 <http://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 <http://www.nswba.com.au/forms/under100mp.asp> - there's also a link from the UHMP website: <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2018&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 last week of November, 26th November to 2nd December.

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 2017 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 major Australian Restricted and or Novice events (donated by the ABF), cash, certificates and subscriptions to the online Novice 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)