



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

May, 2015 (revised August 2015)

Dear Tournament Secretary,

NSW <100 Masterpoint Pairs Championships

Over 70% of the registered active players in the state have fewer than 100 masterpoints. In response to feedback received from players and clubs in 2014, this year the NSWBA is pleased to introduce a new State Championship for this large cohort of players. Most State Championships require considerable investment by players in terms of time, travel and cost, but this event has been specifically designed to address all these issues.

The event will be played in two distinct stages and in four masterpoint divisions (see table below).

Masterpoint range	% of registered active NSW players
0-9.99 MP	33%
10-24.99 MP	13%
25-49.99 MP	12%
50-99.99 MP	12%

The first stage consists of Club Qualifying Events, CQEs, played in your home club. This requires little extra effort by a club - just select appropriate matchpoint pairs session(s) in the designated weeks. Most clubs will play stratified CQEs, *i.e.* all players, including non-participants, play against each other. CQEs are to be held in the weeks 14-20 September and/or 12-18 October.

The second stage consists of a Local Final, played over two sessions on Sunday 29th November. Unlike the CQEs, all Local Finals will play the same boards and the results matchpointed across the state. (Hand records, and dealing files if requested, will be sent by the Tournament Organiser.) Local Finals will be truly that, generally within an hour's drive of the participants' home clubs. The aim is to promote interclub competitions in a way that minimises travel and eliminates overnight accommodation costs.

It's completely up to the clubs to organise themselves into groups and select the club that will conduct their Local Final. Ideally, a Local Final is to involve qualifiers from a minimum of 3 clubs, but fewer clubs is acceptable in remote areas with no close participating clubs. Clubs more than an hour's drive from their nearest participating affiliated club, with the Organiser's permission, may hold a Local Final for their players only. The full list of affiliated clubs can be found on the NSWBA website at <http://www.nswba.com.au/clubs/clubs.asp>. Appendix A is a list of affiliated clubs arranged into suggested groups. This is just meant as a guide - a starting point to get clubs talking to each other. It's by no means a statement that these are the clubs assigned to your Local Final - that's completely up to you to organise.

The success of this tournament will be judged by the state-wide attendance at the Local Finals on 29th November. As such, in this inaugural year, the NSWBA will be doing all it can to promote participation. To this end, any pair that plays in a CQE will be eligible to play in the Local Final and there will be no entry fee to the Local Final. Additionally, the NSWBA will pay for all the B4s masterpoints issued, both in CQEs and Local Finals.



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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. 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: No NSWBA charge for pairs that have paid the \$4.00 entry fee and played in a CQE. But it is expected that the club hosting the Local Final will charge table money, especially if it needs to cover directing, catering or room-hire costs.

Dates.

The date of the Local Finals has been deliberately set to coincide with the ABF's Grand National Open Teams Finals. The vast majority of NSW players who compete in the GNOT have too many masterpoints to be eligible for the UHMP Championship, so there should be very few players affected by this clash. There are no congresses approved for this weekend (again due to the GNOT) so there should be no "bridge" reason for players to be unavailable.

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 (MP holding) 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.

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded on the basis of the handicapped results and will be awarded in each of the four divisions. Prizes will include cash, medals, 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.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Foster
Chairman, NSWBA

Warren Lazer
UHMP Tournament Organiser