

25<sup>th</sup> February 2010



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THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION  
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**To: County Associations & Affiliated Bridge Clubs**

We have a new Masterpoint and Licensing Handbook which will come into effect from April 1st 2010. The current Masterpoint handbook was last revised in 1998 and a lot of things have changed in the ensuing twelve years. The current Licensing handbook was produced even further back in time, in 1994.

We have decided that as Masterpoints and Licensing are so intertwined we would produce one document from now onwards. The new handbook will be available online, only thus enabling us to update and make changes more easily, keeping the document relevant. Here is the link to the MP and Licensing Handbook: <http://www.ebu.co.uk/masterpoints/handbook.htm>; this will be activated by the end of February 2010.

The Licensing fees have also been reviewed and will also come in to effect from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. The fees are:

Description of Event	April 1 <sup>st</sup> 2010
<b>Events run by an affiliated club / county – charges per table per session</b>	
1 Beginner/Improver events	£0.60
2 Swiss Events	£1.75
3 Charity Swiss Events	£1.60
4 Non-Swiss Events	£1.75
5 County Green-Pointed Events	£7.50
<b>Multi-Venue (Simultaneous) Events – charges per venue</b>	
6 Charity – affiliated club	£1.60
7 Non-charity – affiliated club	£4.70
<b>Leagues (also County Knock-out events)</b>	
Per team	£5 per team of 4 £10 per team of 8

Many clubs hold sessions for novices and beginners that do not meet the requirements for exempt teaching/supervised play sessions but are still far from true competitive duplicate sessions. In order to support these initiatives the EBU is willing to consider applications for annual (or one-off) licences for such events. The licence fee charged will typically be about 50% of the revenue that would be received if they were subject to full Pay-to-play subscription charges. It is difficult to be too prescriptive about what events will be approved but typically they will:

- Be for novices/beginners with the aim of encouraging these players into mainstream club competitions

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Chairman: Sally Bugden • Vice-Chairman: Andrew Petrie • Treasurer: Michael Hill • General Manager: Barry Capal  
**Affiliated to the World Bridge Federation and the European Bridge League**

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- Not contain more than 10% of players above Area Master
- Be open to non-members of the club and hence the EBU
- Not award Masterpoints
- Not count towards the National Grading Scheme or the individual's qualification for English Bridge or the annual diary.

As a direct result of Universal membership, with numbers going up to more than 40,000 members, the present Masterpoint reward system would be both unworkable and unaffordable. We are therefore introducing a revised reward and recognition system based on four landmark promotions; please see the attached document which will also be available on the EBU website.

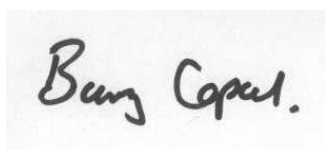
Just a reminder that paper master points dated after March 31st, 2010 will no longer be accepted by the EBU, with some exceptions for events that are currently unfinished. From that date we will not process paper master points unless they have no expiry date (e.g. Simultaneous Pairs) or are within their three year "life span". All simultaneous events that are run after April 1<sup>st</sup> using ECATS will have their master points directly credited from ECATS to the EBU.

This means that any organisation that is permitted to issue EBU master points should have considered their submission methods. We will be providing two methods by which electronic submission will be possible:

1. Provision of a scoring submission file from an approved scoring program for example, Scorebridge.
2. We will provide a spreadsheet format for anyone that wishes to use it as an alternative method.

As the player's EBU number will be central to the submission of their master points it will be ESSENTIAL that any player who wishes to be sure of their master points being correctly allocated provides their EBU number to the organiser. In order to assist with the collection of these numbers we will be providing new membership cards to all members, old and new, with the June edition of *English Bridge*. We will also provide secure on-line lookup facilities in case organisers need to validate the EBU number to be used.

If you have any questions, please contact the EBU office.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry Capal." The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Barry Capal  
General Manager  
English Bridge Union