

Master Point Centre Project

Report No 1

1st August 2006

Introduction

"The time has come, the walrus said..."

In today's life style, people expect instantaneous results of their performance, web based help with their problems and issues and information on history of events and statistics on organisations and outcomes. The ABF Masterpoint Centre has for decades been able to provide data on all of these elements but with a limited, time consuming and slow process. We acknowledge their outstanding performance. However, with new technology in data handling and communications, the time is here to review and update this situation with vision and creative use of computers and web power.

Current Situation:

The Masterpoint Centre carries out a myriads of activities allowing input and queries of information from clubs on individuals, events and states as well as queries on individuals masterpoint status, events masterpointing and status checks on different masterpoint categories, clubs etc. All this should be retained.

The current modus operandi of masterpointing of events depends on State Masterpoint Secretaries who await the results from individual clubs and then have to consciously transmit the masterpoint data to the Centre. For single sessions, the club must do the work to send data to the Centre. This could possibly take weeks or months before the individual is accredited with the achieved masterpoints. The results of any event/session will be available only if the local convenor has the ability and access to insert them on the web. The local clubs may not have ability to create report on statistics of attendance, financial data about the sessions etc.

Some directors when faced with an unexpected number of tables or an unusual event may require some assistance in movements, production of movement cards, inclusion of late pairs, responses on how to handle foul ups, wrong boards played etc. This is not done at the moment and hurried phone calls may solve it.

Strategy:

To create a consistent, fast, accurate system used by all affiliated clubs to provide:

- Results for events on their home web page
- Fast and reliable uploading of masterpoints into the database for all participants
- Advice on movements and foul board manipulations for directors
- Reports to clubs on events details of participants, financial results and organization
- Reports to individuals on masterpoints achieved by months and events almost immediately
- Creation of entry forms and entered participants with membership of individuals
- Registration of new members to the ABF.

This system should be web based to communicate information. The current ABF reporting should be maintained and possibly enhanced to provide information necessary.

Vision statement:

The Master Point Centre is conceived as a centrally placed system that allows guidance for running of bridge movements, calculating session results and determining masterpoints achieved and available to individuals and clubs. To insert into the ABF Masterpoint Database in minimum time and in a consistent manner via computer linkage to the Web based Computer system.

Objective:

To create an easy to use, fast and accurate Computer system available at each club associated through State Bodies to the ABF. The system will use a web based communication system to do all necessary calculations and administration of results, master pointing, its storage, maintenance and dissemination of the information to individuals and clubs as well as providing advice for planning of sessions.

Benefits:

Guidelines of bridge movements to directors of any event.

Ease of session results obtained by staff for the events in progress

Fast response of the event results to directors, clubs, organizing committees and participants, in a consistent, reliable and accurate manner.

Calculation of Masterpoint for any and all events in a fast, consistent and reliable manner to clubs, organizing committees and participants.

Collection of data and statistics for Clubs and Associations for effective management and planning of predicted members and attendees, events and requirements of resources.

Reduction of work and staff needed to achieve fast, accurate data transfer in a consistent manner.

Masterpoint to be housed a central database and transmitted to clubs and available to individuals.

Enhanced Possibilities:

The full possibilities and requirements are still unknown, and as time goes some of those thoughts may be included in the future. The clubs will be queried on their thoughts but some ideas at this stage are listed below:

- Data for BAS
- MCP newsletter
- Overlay with calendar to optimise attendance and highlight public holidays, religious holidays and already scheduled events
- Explanations of possible movements for a session with advantages, disadvantages and possible issues.
- Ability to design and print movement cards and results sheets and hand records
- Ability to generate hands and link to dealing machines.
- Statistics of members who have attended and not attended the local club in a current month.
- New live ranking system.

Current status:

Migration Path Pty. Ltd. (MPPL) has been commissioned to design the computer system to collect and upload data to a central computer from the clubs. Download to clubs ABF membership files and session and tournament data. Financial management of masterpoints will be automated and web based scoring will also be directly available.

MPPL has reported that a beta based local system is almost ready for testing. Details are not yet available.

Regular reporting arrangements to Management Committee established.

Draft schedule of activities and goals created and attached.

Andrew Halmos (alh.pl@bigpond.net.au) to be focal point of information to and from Clubs.

To be done:

Collection of data from clubs on their current computing capacities and Internet access available (action ALH)

Collection of clubs thoughts and wishes on system facilities (Action ALH)

Agreement on support by ABF to clubs on the system.

Agreement on implementation as well as location and management of system to be achieved.

Discussion of ongoing running, maintenance and enhancements to be initiated for agreement.

Domain registration and management of new system to be discussed for agreement and budgeting.