

2014 Grand National Open Teams Competition

December, 2013

Dear Tournament Secretary,

I am writing to you as convener for the GNOT for the Sydney region. The format of the GNOT will be the same as last year, but there's been a very slight cost increase. The fee for each team sent to the Metropolitan Final has risen by \$5 to \$220. Please note that it is a requirement that you submit the format of your event and a gold masterpoint file together with the results of your event by e-mail no later than the 4th of October 2014.

As usual, the co-operation of all Sydney metropolitan clubs is being sought to ensure the maximum number of entrants, since this determines how many teams are allowed to represent Sydney in the National Final (currently eight teams). If your club has regularly participated in the GNOT qualifying rounds we are confident that you will once again enjoy the 2014 competition.

All metropolitan Sydney clubs are invited to hold qualifying events to determine representative teams that will compete in a Metropolitan Final at the NSWBA on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th October. Entry will be on the basis of one team for every 7 entered in each club qualifying event. Although it is necessary for teams to attend both the Saturday sessions of the Metropolitan Final, it is permissible to retire hurt from the Sunday Swiss repechage. The Metropolitan Final qualifies four teams to the GNOT National Final which will be held at Tweed Heads from Friday 28th November to Monday 1st December 2014. Gold Masterpoints will be available to the winners of every match at the rate of 0.04 masterpoints per board, *i.e.* winners of a 14 board match will receive 0.56 Gold Masterpoints per player, while winners of a 32 board match will receive 1.28 masterpoints per player.

In addition, the NSWBA and the North Shore Bridge Club will hold heats where an additional four teams (two from each venue) are awarded direct qualification into the National Final. Outright Gold Masterpoints will be made to the top third of the field for these direct qualifying events. Dates for these GNOT Direct Qualifying Events are:

- i) NSWBA on 5 Monday evenings, April 28, May 12, 19, 26 & June 2,
- ii) North Shore Bridge Club on 5 Thursday evenings, August 21 to September 18.

The Supplementary Tournament Regulations, that are to be read in association with the NSWBA Tournament Regulations, are posted separately on the NSWBA web site <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2014/gnot/metro.htm>. I would appreciate not having to duplicate this document unnecessarily, but if you are unable to access the NSWBA site, I will send you a hard copy upon application. Please read the regulations carefully, as they explain the conditions that need to be fulfilled for Gold masterpoints to be awarded. The cost per master point is \$1.20 per point.

There have been no changes from last year. Clubs will run their competitions as usual, with the initial entry to each event determining the number of teams that will qualify to the Metropolitan Final. The participating club can then select those teams in whatever way it likes. Naturally we (and especially your players) would expect the club to offer the qualifying spots to the teams in the order in which they finish, but this is completely up to the clubs. If team members become unavailable at the last moment, it should be a simple matter for the club to find a couple of replacement players or even a completely new replacement team. The NSWBA will be imposing no restrictions on how you solve these problems.

So although clubs can set their own regulations, they still have to answer to their own members and players. If you want to maintain substitution and augmentation rules similar to those of previous years, you may. If you want to offer one of the qualification spots to, for example, the team that wins your 2014 Club Championship, you can do that. It's completely up to you.

Note that teams of 4 or 5 players that qualify to the National Final via a Club Qualifier and thence the Metropolitan Final will be allowed to augment.

The NSWBA recognises that there is a wide disparity in the standard of teams entering the club qualifying competitions across the Metropolitan region and that it is much easier to qualify from some clubs than from others. Consequently, the NSWBA will be accepting entries directly into the Metropolitan Final. The cost for direct entry will be \$260 per team and all team members must have previously played in a club qualifying competition. Teams that take advantage of this direct entry facility are not permitted to augment at the conclusion of the Metropolitan Final.

I have a list of clubs who entered this event in 2013, and in most cases an email address of some responsible person at the club. It is generally easiest to communicate entirely by email, so please let me know if your club's responsible person has changed, or if the email address has changed. It would also help me if you could let me know, via email, if your club is intending to hold a heat this year as in the final stages it is important to know who to chase for the inevitable last minute results, money, *etc.*

Should you require further details please contact me – preferably by e-mail:

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GNOT Metropolitan Convener 2014