



NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



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2024 Grand National Open Teams - Sydney Metro Region

The ABF has made major changes to the GNOT to curb the ~\$50K loss it has been making on the event every year. See the ABF's website <https://abfevents.com.au/events/gnot/2024/index.asp> for full details. In summary, the National Finals will now be held in two stages. The first will be held **online** from **Friday 20 – Sunday 22 September** using the **RealBridge** platform. That stage will qualify 4 open teams and 8 non-metropolitan teams to **face-to-face finals in Sydney on 23-24 November**. The ABF is also passing on some of their savings – most significantly the entry for teams to the Finals has been reduced to \$300.

There will be some changes at the local level too. Firstly, to accommodate the new National Final structure, **the Sydney Metropolitan Regional Final is scheduled for 7 & 8 September**. It will be played F2F at the NSWBA. Fraser Rew, who has done such a good job for us as Metro GNOT Organiser, has taken over from Ray Ellaway as National Organiser. David Wiltshire will take over from Fraser as the Metropolitan Organiser. David will be running a one-stop shop. He will be checking MP awards, then collating and forwarding the relevant information to the State Masterpoint Secretary after the Metropolitan Final. An Excel spreadsheet that simplifies the checking process for both clubs and David is now available to help streamline the process. No information is to be sent directly to the ABF Masterpoint Centre or State Masterpoint Secretary. **Everything goes to David**. Club GNOT events may be played F2F or online on RealBridge. Events run on BBO or StepBridge are not allowed.

NSW has 22 places in the National Finals, 7 of which are assigned to the Sydney Metropolitan Region. The NSWBA has absorbed increasing costs for the last few years, to the point where it was running the GNOT at a loss. Not only has reduction in ABF entry fees for 2024 largely addressed this problem, it has allowed us to slightly reduce the cost to participating clubs rather than raising them. **The GNOT is the only opportunity for players to earn Gold masterpoints in a club session**, so we encourage all clubs to support this event. If entries increase, it may be possible to reduce all Regional Final entry fees further in 2025.

The Metropolitan GNOT Organiser, David Wiltshire, metrognot@nswba.com.au requires;

- (i) The completed Excel coversheet available from the NSWBA website.
- (ii) A complete copy of the results for each session as pdf, text, html, Word or Excel files. For a teams event, this must include a list of all teams and their members and the number of matches won, drawn and lost. For a pairs event, the final score and placing of each pair.
- (iii) Masterpoint information as a .gld file, sent as an email attachment.
- (iv) A complete list of team members (*i.e.* names and ABF numbers) of teams that will proceed to the Metropolitan GNOT Final.

The regulations can, as usual, be found on the NSWBA site;

www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2024/gnot/metro.asp

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

David Wiltshire email: metrognot@nswba.com.au Mobile: 0412 341 504

An overview of the GNOT, how it is conducted in NSW, and guidance on what premium should be charged to your players follows on the subsequent pages.

Warren Lazer
Chairman, NSWBA Events Committee

David Wiltshire
Metropolitan GNOT Organiser

GRAND NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS (GNOT)

Overview of the GNOT

The Grand National Open Teams is an Australia-wide event conducted by the Australian Bridge Federation Inc (ABF). It is the only opportunity for players to earn Gold Masterpoints in their local club. It works like this:

- Australia is divided into regions on a geographical basis.
- Each region provides a set number of teams to the National Final (a total of 64 teams in 2024).
- Clubs hold heats to qualify teams to a final within their region.
- Each Regional Final qualifies 1 or more teams to the National Final.
- From 2024 onwards, the National Final will be played in two stages:
 1. a knock-out with Swiss repechage in mid-September played online on RealBridge platform,
 2. face-to-face Finals involving 4 open teams and 8 non-metropolitan teams in late November or early December in Sydney.
- The ABF provides travel grants to teams that qualify for the face-to-face Finals in Sydney.

GNOT in NSW

The ABF has appointed the NSWBA as the Organising Body for all GNOT regions in NSW. The ABF has stipulated that NSWBA is to send 22 teams to the National Final - 7 of these will come from the Sydney Metropolitan region, the remaining 15 from elsewhere in NSW.

The NSWBA appoints a Metropolitan GNOT Organiser, a Country GNOT Organiser and a team of Regional Organisers who are responsible for conducting the GNOT in NSW.

All clubs have been assigned to one region only and can qualify teams only to that region's Final. These regions are slightly different to those used for the Country Teams or administrative purposes.

FURTHER DETAIL

Separate more detailed sections now follow describing:

- Club Qualifying Events
- The Metropolitan Final
- Direct Qualifying Events
- Masterpoints
- Financial information

Please review these as they contain important information about running the GNOT in your club.

CLUB QUALIFYING EVENTS (CQE)

All clubs in metropolitan Sydney are invited to hold qualifying events (CQEs) to determine representative teams that will compete in the Metropolitan Final.

Clubs may hold one, two or three separate qualifying events, each being 2 - 5 sessions in length. It is recommended that clubs create a separate event in their calendars for their GNOT CQE.

Players may enter in as many different CQEs as they wish, at different clubs within metropolitan Sydney, subject to the rules of the club holding the CQE.

Event formats

CQEs may be in the following formats:

- Teams.
- IMP pairs events (Butler or cross IMPs) with teams then formed from eligible pairs.

Regular club matchpoint duplicate sessions are not acceptable for two reasons:

- The GNOT is ultimately a team event (scored by IMPs) so the qualifying events should follow the same scoring approach.
- Clubs should be charging a premium to players in GNOT heats to show they are special (*i.e.* they carry Gold masterpoints) and to allow the club to collect sufficient monies to fund team entry fees to the Metropolitan Final – see Financial information section for details.

Qualifying teams to the Metropolitan Final

The number of teams to qualify to the Metropolitan Final from each separate CQE is calculated as follows from the number of tables in play. A maximum of one seventh (fractions rounded up) may qualify and a minimum of one seventh (fractions rounded down) must qualify. This means:

- For heats up to 7 tables, the club must send 1 team to the Metropolitan Final;
- For heats between 8-13 tables, the club must send 1 or 2 teams to the Metropolitan Final;
- For a heat of exactly 14 tables the club must send 2 teams to the Metropolitan Final;
- For heats between 15-20 tables, the club must send 2 or 3 teams to the Metropolitan Final; *etc.*

A club must send (or pay for) at least one seventh of its CQE field to the Metropolitan Final in order to award Gold masterpoints.

Nominating teams to the Metropolitan Final

Clubs that do not hold a CQE may nominate one (1) team to the Metropolitan Final.

Direct entry of teams to the Metropolitan Final

The NSWBA recognises that there is a wide disparity in the standard of teams entering the club qualifying competitions. It can be much easier to qualify to the Metropolitan Final from some clubs than from others. The NSWBA will therefore accept 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 CQE within the Sydney metropolitan region.

METROPOLITAN FINAL

The Metropolitan Final will qualify three teams to the GNOT National Final. The Metropolitan Final is typically a double knockout with Swiss repechage, but the exact format is dependent on the number of teams playing. The Metropolitan Final is scheduled to be held at the NSWBA on a weekend in early September.

DIRECT QUALIFYING EVENTS (DQE)

The Sydney metropolitan region is unique in NSW in that it contains about half the state's affiliated clubs and the majority of the state's top players. The DQEs provide an opportunity for teams to bypass the Metropolitan Final and qualify directly to the National Final.

The NSWBA DQE (Monday nights, online on RealBridge) qualifies 2 teams directly to the National Final; the North Shore Bridge Club (Thursday nights, online on RealBridge) and the Sydney Bridge Club (face-to-face on a weekend) DQEs each qualify 1 team directly to the National Final. All three events also qualify one seventh of their field to the Metropolitan Final. The DQEs are open to all residents of Sydney and the immediately neighbouring GNOT regions (*viz.*, Central Coast, Mountains and Tablelands-Illawarra).

MASTERPOINTS

In club heats, 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 5 board match will receive 0.20 Gold masterpoints per player, while winners of an 8 board match will receive 0.32 Gold masterpoints per player. CQEs may be held F2F or as online events on RealBridge. Clubs will be invoiced by the NSWBA for their Masterpoint costs. Do not pay anything until you receive the invoice.

In the Metropolitan Final, these awards increase to 0.06 masterpoints per board, *i.e.* winners of a 14 board match (or segment) will receive 0.84 Gold Masterpoints per player. In the case of 5 or 6 person teams, the masterpoint awards per member will be 4/5 and 2/3 respectively. Outright masterpoints will be awarded to the top third of the field. The NSWBA will pay for the Masterpoints awarded at the Metropolitan Final.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ABF charges

The ABF makes two charges for the GNOT:

- \$300 per team entered to the National Final
- \$10 per table that enters the event at a qualifying level

The NSWBA has calculated a fee structure that allows clubs to collect sufficient funds to cover further entry fees and masterpoint charges and is consistent across all regions. (Players in the country regions will be paying slightly less.)

Costs to clubs

The NSWBA will be responsible for paying the above fees to the ABF. It will also be responsible for Metropolitan Final running costs. The money will be raised by the following fees:

Fee	\$	Notes
Club qualifying heats or club nominations to the Metropolitan Final.	\$15 per table	This covers the \$10 per table levy from the ABF which the NSWBA collects and passes on. The \$5 extra premium helps defray the event costs across all players.
Each team entering the Metropolitan Final.	\$200 This fee includes lunch for the team on both days.	It is completely up to the clubs how this money is raised. Some clubs pay the entire amount, whilst others share the cost with the team, (say \$100 from the club and \$100 from the players). However the money is raised, the NSWBA will invoice the club for the full amount.

Clubs should note that they will need to charge a small premium on normal table money for GNOT heats in order to raise sufficient monies for these fees. Clubs will be invoiced by the NSWBA for team entry fees and the masterpoints awarded in their qualifying heats. The NSWBA will then pay the ABFMPC for the masterpoints awarded.

Costs to players

The premium charged to players to raise sufficient funds will depend on the number of tables and sessions in your heat, but typically should not be more than a few dollars a session. The following table gives some examples of how to calculate a reasonable amount for clubs who run small, medium and large CQEs.

Table: Calculating entry fee per player

		Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Tables in CQE	T	7	12	18
Sessions	S	2	2	3
Teams qualifying to Metro Final	R	1	2	3
Funds required				
Metropolitan Final entry fee (assume club pays \$100 per team and players pay \$100)	R x \$100	\$100	\$200	\$300
\$15 per table charge	T x \$15	\$105	\$180	\$270
Total required funds	F	\$205	\$380	\$570
Total player sessions	P = 4 x T x S	4 x 7 x 2 = 56	4 x 12 x 2 = 96	4 x 18 x 3 = 216
Premium per player per session needed to raise these funds <i>(Recommend round up to help fund Gold masterpoints.)</i>	F / P	205/56 = \$3.66 (Say \$4.00)	380/96 = \$3.96 (Say \$4.00)	516/216 = \$2.64 (Say \$3.00)
Funds raised		56 x \$4.00 = \$224	96 x \$4.00 = \$384	216 x \$3.00 = \$648

Further details

The Supplementary Tournament Regulations, that are to be read in association with the NSWBA Tournament Regulations, will be posted separately on the NSWBA web site www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2024/gnot/metro.asp. Please read the regulations carefully, as they explain the conditions that need to be fulfilled for Gold masterpoints to be awarded.

Appendix A: Clubs in the Sydney Metropolitan GNOT Region
Metropolitan Organiser: David Wiltshire metrognot@nswba.com.au

ARV Bridge Club	Kings and Queens Sydney
Bayview Bridge Club	Long Reef Bridge Club Macarthur
Bridge Away	Collegians Bridge Club
Bridge Club Services	Manly Golf Club Bridge Group
Bridge with Beauchamp	Manly Leagues Bridge Club
Bridgefolk	MasterBridge Online
Carlingford Bridge Club	Mosman Park Bridge Club
Carnarvon Bridge Club	Narrabeen Bridge Club
Castle Hill Bridge Club	North Shore Bridge Club
Cheltenham Bridge Club	North Sydney Leagues Bridge Club
Concord Bridge Club	NSBC@Lindfield
Cromer Bridge Club	Parramatta Bridge Club
Double Bay Bridge Centre	Peninsula Bridge Club
Easts Bridge Club	Pennant Hills Bridge Club
Elanora Country Club	Port Hacking Bridge Club
Eventz in Paradise	Randwick Bridge Club
Finesse Bridge Club	Reef Bridge Club
Forestville RSL Bridge Club	RMYC Newport Bridge Club
Funbridge Australia	Royal Sydney Golf Club
Georges River Bridge Club	Seaforth Bridge Club
Harbord Diggers Bridge Club	Social Bridge Ryde
Harbourview Bridge Club	Strathfield Bridge Club
Helane K Tours	Sydney Bridge Club
Holiday Bridge	Sydney University Bridge Club
Hunters Hill Bridge Club	The St George Bridge Club
Hurstville Bridge Club	Thornleigh Bridge Club
Ingleburn RSL Bridge Club	Trumps Bridge Centre
Killara Bridge Club	Turrumurra Bridge Club
Killara Golf Club Ltd Bridge Club	Wollstonecraft Bridge Club