

2008 Grand National Open Teams Competition

February, 2008

Dear Tournament Secretary,

If your club has regularly participated in the GNOT qualifying rounds we are confident that you will once again enjoy the 2008 competition. This year there have been some significant modifications to the regulations which are expected to make it easier for clubs to select their representative teams.

The NSWBA is well aware that the current practice of allowing players to enter this event multiple times at different clubs and in different teams can cause a number of headaches for organisers, as they try to sort out which teams are viable and prepared to play in the Metropolitan Final. For 2008, clubs can run a wide range of IMP based competitions (including Swiss or Butler Pairs), and as before, the initial entry to each event will determine the number of teams that must qualify to the Metropolitan Final. The participating club is at liberty to make local regulations to select the qualifying teams in whatever way it likes. In particular, if team members become unavailable at the last moment, it should now be much simpler 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. Although clubs can set their own regulations, they still have to answer to their own members and players.

The rules regarding the events run by the NSWBA, DBBC and NSBC, which select a direct qualifying team (or teams) to the National final will be tightened as follows:

- All team members who qualify to the National Final may only play in that team in the Final. Such players may not contest the Metropolitan Final. They may contest the other direct qualifying events, but only if their entire team is declared non-contending - they cannot play in the National Final in a different team.
- Teams that qualify from the Metropolitan Final are the teams that go to Banora Point whether they contain 4, 5 or 6 players - they cannot augment their team with players that have been knocked out of the event.

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 (rounded down), 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 again be held at Banora Point (Tweed Heads) from Friday 28th November to Monday 1st December 2008. 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, three Metropolitan centres hold heats where an additional four teams 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. Centres where teams may qualify directly to the GNOT National Final are as follows:

- i) NSWBA on 5 Monday evenings, August 11th to September 15th (2 teams to qualify),
- ii) Double Bay Bridge Centre on 5 Wednesday evenings, April 30th to May 28th (one team to qualify).
- iii) North Shore Bridge Club on 4 Thursday evenings, June 12th to July 3rd (one team to qualify).

The Supplementary Tournament Regulations that are to be read in association with the NSWBA Tournament Regulations have been posted separately on the NSWBA web site <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2008/gnot/index.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 is unchanged from last year:

The cost per master point is \$1.10 per point and the original entry fee is still \$10 per team.

The entry fee for teams proceeding to the Metropolitan Final remains at \$205, direct qualifying teams to the National Final cost \$660 per team.

I have a list of clubs who entered this event last year, and in most cases an email address of some responsible person at the club. Since I would very much like to communicate entirely by email, please let me know if your club's responsible person has changed, or if the email address has changed. It would help 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 the Convener of the event: Tony Musgrove, preferably via e-mail on ardelm@optusnet.com.au, or in desperation on 9520 5651 or via snail mail 12 Kelton Pl, Engadine, NSW, 2233.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Musgrove
Convener on behalf of the NSWBA