

2009 Grand National Open Teams Competition

January, 2009

Dear Tournament Secretary,

If your club has regularly participated in the GNOT qualifying rounds we are confident that you will once again enjoy the 2009 competition. 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).

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 10th and Sunday 11th October. If a club holds two qualifying events, one must be held in the evening and the other must be held during the day.

In addition, a special weekend Congress type event may be held, subject to the approval of the date by the Metropolitan GNOT Convener. The event should be advertised only within the participating club.

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 again be held at Banora Point (Tweed Heads) from Friday 27th to Monday 30th November 2009. 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 17th to September 14th (2 teams to qualify),
- ii) The Double Bay Bridge Centre on 5 Wednesday evenings, April 29th to May 27th (one team to qualify),
- iii) The North Shore Bridge Club on 4 Thursday evenings, June 11th to July 2nd (one team to qualify).

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/2009/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 per master point is \$1.10 per point.

The entry fee for teams proceeding to the Metropolitan Final remains at \$205.

The original entry fee of \$10 per team is also unchanged.

The changes introduced last year seemed to go smoothly, so will be retained for 2009. 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 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.

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 2009 Club Championship, you can do that. It's completely up to you.

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. The only significant change to be implemented in 2009 reflects this – the NSWBA will be accepting entries directly into the Metropolitan Final. A team may therefore comprise members from several different clubs. The cost for direct entry will be \$250 per team and all team members must have previously played in a club qualifying competition.

As in 2008, the 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 add players that have been knocked out of the event. Players need to be aware of this regulation – no augmentation to teams will be allowed after the Metropolitan Final has started.

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