



New South Wales Bridge Association



1st Floor, 162 Goulburn Street, East Sydney 2010 Ph: 9264 8111

E-mail: office@nswba.com.au Web: www.nswba.com.au

ABN: 61 000 438 648

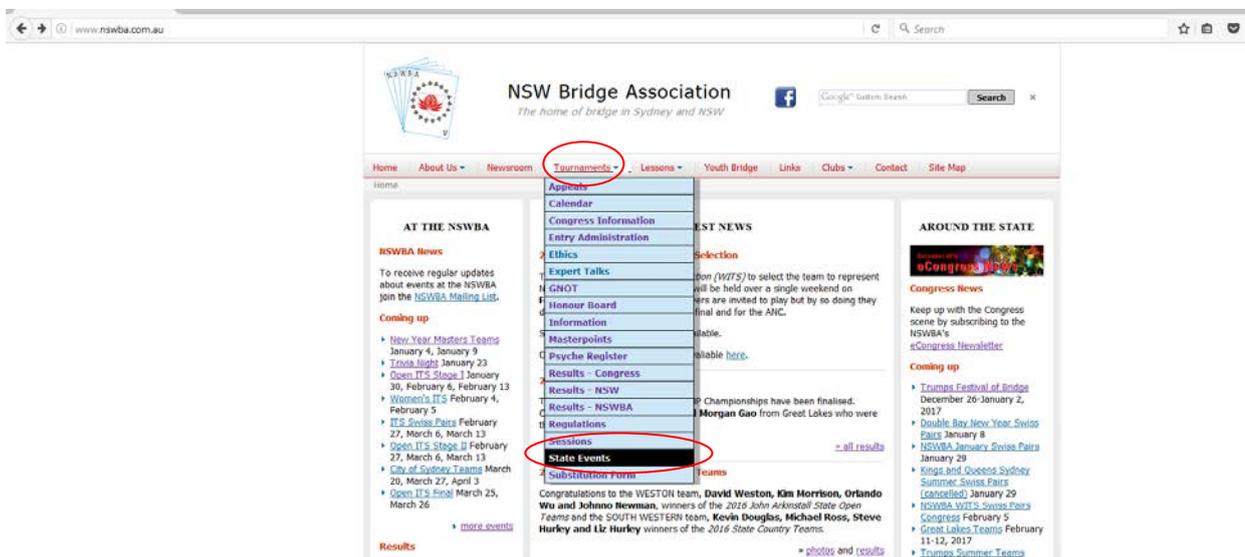
Dear Club Secretary,

If you are not responsible for running events or bridge sessions in your club, please pass this letter to the person who is, *viz.* your Tournament Organiser, President or Chief Director.

The NSWBA wants to ensure all clubs are aware of all our State Championship events and the advantages of participating in them at the club level. Most importantly, participating in State events is the cheapest way for your club to award red masterpoints to your members. Not only are red MPs for State Championships issued at twice the rate of Club Championships, these sessions are additional to your club's B4c entitlement. Apart from the Country Teams and Metropolitan Teams, there is no requirement for your club to send club representatives to the next stage of the event.

Pre 2017, this mail-out contained about 20 sheets of colour-coded paper. As information about all our State Championships is available from our website, it is now wasteful in terms of materials, time and money to post out reams of paper. Rather, this single letter will list all our events planned for the coming year and explain how to find the relevant information on the NSWBA website. However, should you require any hard copy information, please feel free to contact the NSWBA Office and request that it be sent out.

Go to the NSWBA home page www.nswba.com.au. Click on **Tournaments** and then choose **State Events** from the drop down menu that appears, as shown in the screen shot below.



On the State Events page you will find links to each event, listed in chronological order. For full details, follow the relevant links as outlined above, however a short summary of each event is given on the following two pages.

Warren Lazer (Chairman, NSWBA Tournament Committee)

The State Mixed Pairs Championship (incorporating the Country Mixed Pairs Championship)

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2018&E=smp>

You can play up to 4 session of this event in your club, with red masterpoints awarded with a weighting factor of 3.75. There's no longer any requirement to send club representatives to the Finals in Sydney in order to receive the red masterpoints.

Qualifying rounds to be completed before Friday 18th May 2018.

There are travel & accommodation grants for representatives of country clubs attending the Finals at the NSWBA on 26th & 27th May, 2018.

Tournament Organiser: Wing Roberts office@nswba.com.au

The State Open Pairs Championship (incorporating the Country Pairs Championship)

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2018&E=sop>

You can play up to 4 session of this event in your club, with red masterpoints awarded with a weighting factor of 5.0. There's no longer any requirement to send club representatives to the Finals in Sydney in order to receive the red masterpoints.

Qualifying rounds to be completed before Friday 16th November, 2018.

There are travel & accommodation grants for representatives of country clubs attending the Finals at the NSWBA on 24th & 25th November, 2018.

Tournament Organiser: Wing Roberts office@nswba.com.au

The State Wide Pairs

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2018&E=swp>

This event is now a single session event played during the week of July 30th - August 5th.

All pairs play the same hands and the results are scored across the state and the hand records include a short analysis of each deal.

Red masterpoints (paid by the NSWBA) are awarded at level B4s and there are generous prizes including cash, Bridge Shop Gift vouchers and certificates.

Organiser: Warren Lazer swp@nswba.com.au

The Under 100 Masterpoints Pairs Championships

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2018&E=uhmp>

Red masterpoints awarded at level B4s (paid by the NSWBA).

Restricted to those players with fewer than 100 masterpoints.

Club sessions are held in your club during September and or October.

Finals are held at multiple venues around the state on 2nd December.

Short travel times and no accommodation costs associated with Finals.

Prizes (cash, subscriptions to the Novice Australian Bridge magazine and certificates) are awarded separately in each masterpoint division.

Organiser: Warren Lazer uhmp@nswba.com.au

The John Arkinstall State Teams Championship

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2018&E=sot>

Affiliated clubs qualify teams to the State Finals via Regional and Zonal Finals. See the Country and Metropolitan Teams Championships below.

The Finals are held at the NSWBA on 14-16 December 2018.

Red masterpoints at Level B with a weighting factor of 5.0 are awarded. Sessional awards for the State Finals are increased by 50%.

The Metropolitan Teams Championship - part of the John Arkinstall State Teams Championship

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2018&E=sotmetro>

Red masterpoints awarded with weighting factor of 5.0. There is a requirement that you must send at least one club representative team to the Metropolitan Final in order to receive red masterpoints. The Metropolitan Final is incorporated into the NSWBA Spring Teams Congress on 28th October. Teams entering at the club level and progressing to the Metropolitan Final pay just \$60. Teams entering the Metropolitan Final directly pay \$140.

Two teams progress from the Metropolitan Final to the State Final at the NSWBA. At least one of these teams will have qualified via a Club heat.

Tournament Organiser: Warren Lazer sotmetro@nswba.com.au

The Country Teams Championship - part of the John Arkinstall State Teams Championship

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2018&E=sotct>

Teams from each of the zones (*viz.* Northern, Southern & Western, Outer Metropolitan) qualify to the State Final at the NSWBA.

Teams enter at the club level and progress to Regional and Zonal Finals. Augmentation rules have been relaxed considerably compared to previous years, making it much easier for clubs to find teams willing to progress to the Regional and Zonal Finals. There is still a requirement that you must send 20% of the field to the Regional Final in order to receive red masterpoints.

Masterpoints are awarded with a weighting factor of 5.0 for club heats and Regional Finals.

Zonal Finals attract both outright awards (W=5.0) and sessional awards (W=7.5).

There are travel & accommodation grants for teams attending the State Finals.

Tournament Organiser: Helen Milward helenmilward@internode.on.net

A summary of the significant dates for the 2018 Country Teams Championship follows.

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| Friday 2 nd February: | Deadline for applications from clubs to host Regional Final. |
| Friday 2 nd February: | Deadline for applications from clubs to host Zonal Final. |
| Saturday 2 nd June: | Default deadline for completion of Club Qualifying events. |
| Sunday 24 th June: | Default deadline for completion of Regional Finals. |
| Tuesday 26 th June: | Default deadline for entries to the Zonal Finals. |
| Sat 30 th June & Sun 1 st July: | Default date for Zonal Finals. |
| Fri 14 th & Sat 15 th December: | Qualification rounds of John Arkinstall State Teams Finals at the NSWBA. |
| Sun 16 th December: | Final of the NSWBA Country Teams Championship. |
| Sun 16 th December: | Final of the John Arkinstall State Teams Championship. |