

## **NSWBA – Survey about Monday night championship session**

### **Background**

The survey was directly emailed to a list of 239 people identified as players who regularly play Monday night, have played Monday night in the past few years, or who generally participate in State tournaments and congresses etc.

In addition a link to the survey was placed on the NSWBA website so anyone else could also complete it.

85 separate responses were received. Results for each question are shown at the end of this document.

### **General conclusions**

Obviously any survey like this is subject to the criticism that it is self-biased – i.e. it leans towards the opinions of those people who already play the session. We tried to prevent that by targeting a larger list of respondents, making the survey available on the website and by not handing it out on a Monday night. Given that only 31% of respondents said they played “most” Monday night sessions, and 21% said they played “rarely/never” that means there is certainly a significant element of opinion coming from non-regular Monday night players.

#### Demographics:

- Highest proportion are over 61, consistent with the bridge population as a whole (although I suspect the average for most clubs would be older).
- A majority are working either full or part-time. I suspect this is different to the bridge population as a whole which tends to be more retired.

#### Bridge Activity:

- 31% play the session regularly, 21% rarely or never.
- Wide variation of the number of other sessions played in a week – but the highest proportion play 1 or 2 other sessions.
- Big majorities play the Summer Festival and Gold Coast congresses.
- Most play between 0 and 3 National gold point events a year.

#### Timetabling:

- Small preference for interrupting Monday events for major National events – but the majority have no preference.
- Small preference for Monday night over Tuesday night – but the majority have no preference.
- 7.30pm is still the most popular start time but there is also a good body of support for 7pm. 6.30pm was markedly less popular.
- Highest proportion wish to finish by 10pm, over 70% to finish by 10.30pm
- Strong preference to retain the current number of boards (27-28).

#### Types of scoring and event:

- Imps (teams) the most popular scoring method followed by Imps (butler pairs). Board a match the least popular.
- Swiss and round robin significantly the most popular formats.
- Big majority happy with the current mix of events.
- Relatively low level of support for any of the alternative events proposed.
- Comfortable majorities think qualifying for State Open and State Mixed pairs should be part of the Mon night program.

#### Overall:

Broadly there is not a strong vote for change in any particular aspect, especially not with the mix of the events or the number of boards played. While 7.30pm was still the most popular start time I feel there is enough support for a 7pm start that we should at least seek to move the session forward a bit. Given the strong preference to retain 27-28 boards, that would also help to achieve the desired earlier finish times.

Similarly there is not a strong vote to move the session to Tuesday night but I feel there is enough of a body of opinion to warrant at least trying it. We have therefore rescheduled the Masters teams (previously held early in the new year) to become a 3 week event held on Tuesday nights in April/May. If this proves successful we could consider moving other major events, or creating new ones on Tuesdays which may be a way of expanding the number of people taking part in higher level competition.

**Julian Foster**

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS BY QUESTION

Note that percentages listed here are a percentage of the total survey respondents (85) not the total respondents of the question. Where some people left a question blank, the percentages add to less than 100%.

### Background information

What is your age?

Under 30	30-44	45-60	61+
7%	9%	21%	60%

What is your work status?

Student	Part-time	Full-time	Not working
1%	23%	35%	40%

### Your current bridge activity

How many Mon night sessions do you normally play?

Most	About half	2-3 a year	ITS only	Rarely/Never
31%	21%	23%	2%	21%

How many other sessions do you play a week?

0	1	2	3	4+
18%	28%	29%	12%	10%

Do you regularly play the Summer Festival of bridge?

Yes 87% No 12%

Do you regularly play the Gold Coast Congress?

Yes 70% No 28%

How many other National gold point events sessions do you typically play a year?

0-1	2-3	4-5	6+
28%	37%	18%	14%

### Timetabling

Do you think we should continue or interrupt our events on Mondays of long weekends?

Continue to play	Interrupt	No preference
21%	38%	40%

Would you prefer to have our State events on Tuesdays rather than Mondays?

Prefer Monday	Prefer Tuesday	No preference
23%	18%	55%

If the session started at these times, how would that affect you?

	Definitely wouldn't play	Probably wouldn't play	Might play	Probably would play	Definitely would play	Average score
<i>SCORE</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	
6.30pm	9%	15%	22%	24%	27%	<b>3.45</b>
7.00pm	5%	9%	17%	27%	38%	<b>3.85</b>
7.30pm	2%	10%	10%	28%	44%	<b>4.06</b>

What would be your preferred finish time?

10.00pm	10.30pm	11.00pm	Other
42%	31%	9%	11%

How many boards would you like to play during the session?

24	27-28	Other
11%	78%	5%

Please rate the attraction to you on a scale of 1(hate) to 5(love) for the following types of scoring for events:

	Average score 1 (hate) to 5 (love)
Matchpoints	3.25
Imps (Butler pairs)	4.01
Imps (Teams)	4.49
Hybrid (Board a match)	2.80
Board a Match	2.67

Please rate the attraction to you on a scale of 1(hate) to 5(love) for the following formats for events:

	Average score 1 (hate) to 5 (love)
Swiss	4.21
Round Robin	4.11
Knockout + Swiss repechage	3.41
Double knockout	3.31

Events currently vary from 2 to 5 weeks in length. Are you happy with the current mix or do you think we should change?

Happy with current mix	Prefer fewer longer events	Prefer more shorter events
76%	3%	14%

Please rate the attraction to you on a scale of 1(hate) to 5(love) for the following alternative types of event:

	Average score 1 (hate) to 5 (love)
Longer teams events	2.82
Longer swiss pairs events	2.48
Restricted events	3.10
Speedball pairs	2.20
Occasional non-bridge (e.g. trivia)	1.95

Do you think qualifying events for the following State finals should take place on Monday nights?

	Yes	No
State Mixed Pairs	62%	27%
State Open Pairs	64%	24%