



NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



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Dear Tournament Secretary,

2014 Grand National Open Teams - Country NSW Regions

The conduct of the GNOT in country NSW will undergo a major change in 2014. As some of you may know, John Brockwell and the ABF have requested that the NSWBA become the organising body for the entire state. The NSWBA has convened the Sydney Metropolitan GNOT Region for many years and in 2013 also undertook the organisation of four coastal regions. Beginning in 2014, the NSWBA will be responsible for the conduct of all GNOT heats in NSW.

Rather than have different sets of rules and regulations for each different region, one of our aims will be to standardise the regulations and costs across the entire state. Before outlining the changes that this entails, I'll start with an overview of the GNOT in an attempt to interest clubs that have not previously participated in this event.

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 (64 in all)
- Clubs hold heats to qualify teams to a final within their region
- Each Regional final qualifies 1 or more teams to the National final
- The National final is played in late November/early December (currently in Tweed Heads)
- The ABF provides travel grants to teams that qualify for the National Final.

GNOT in NSW

The ABF has appointed the NSWBA as the Organising Body for all regions in NSW. The ABF has stipulated that NSWBA is to send 22 teams to the National Final - 8 of these will come from Sydney Metropolitan region, the remaining 14 from elsewhere in NSW. This is almost identical to 2013.

Each region in NSW, the affiliated clubs therein and the number of teams it will qualify to the National Final can be found in Appendix A.

Regional Convener

John McIlrath (john@johnmcilrath.com.au, mobile 0437 274343) will be the Regional Convener for 2014. Over the next couple of months, he will appoint a Regional Organiser for each region; in many regions this will be the same person who has been conducting the event in previous years under the guidance of John Brockwell and the ABF.

The next page contains a quick summary of what's changing and what will still be the same with regard to the GNOT in Country NSW regions in 2014. Subsequent sections provide more detail.

SUMMARY OF GNOT IN COUNTRY NSW REGIONS 2014

What's changing

- NSWBA is now responsible for all NSW regions. Regional organisers will no longer have any dealings with the ABF about the GNOT.
- John McIlrath (john@johnmcilrath.com.au, mobile 0437 274343) will be the regional convener.
- Clubs may no longer participate in multiple regions (although, within reason, they can choose which one they wish to belong to). Please review appendix A and contact John McIlrath if your club wishes to move regions.
- There will be a \$10 charge per table in club qualifying events. This is an ABF charge for the GNOT that is applied nationwide. (It has existed for years, but the ABF has not previously levied it consistently across the country, a policy that has now changed.)
- The number of teams qualifying from each region to the National Final has changed slightly – most regions are unaffected.
- Zonal and Regional knockouts will no longer exist.
- Teams can directly enter Regional finals (subject to some conditions).

What's still the same

- The GNOT regions in NSW.
- Regional finals.
- The presence of regional organisers (they just now liaise with John McIlrath instead of the ABF).
- Gold masterpoints.
- Entry fees to the Regional final.
- Nomination of teams to the Regional Final for clubs not holding heats.
- Travel subsidies for players to attend the National Final.
- Club heats may be IMP pairs or teams format (but not regular matchpoint duplicate pairs).

FURTHER DETAIL

Separate more detailed sections now follow describing:

- Club qualifying events
- Regional finals
- Masterpoints
- Financial information

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

CLUB QUALIFYING EVENTS

All clubs within a region are invited to hold qualifying events (“CQE”s) to determine representative teams that will compete in a Regional Final.

Clubs may hold one or two separate qualifying heats. Each must be 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 a region or even in different regions (if they happen to belong to clubs in different regions).

All clubs have been assigned to one region only and can qualify teams only to that region’s Final. These regions are not set in stone. If your club wants to move to a different region, please let John McIlrath know as soon as possible.

Event formats

CQEs may be in the following formats:

- Teams.
- Butler IMP pairs events (players’ results are compared to an average “datum” score and the difference converted to IMPs) from which teams are then formed.

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 points) and to allow the club to collect sufficient monies to fund the entry fees to later stages – see Financial information section for details.

Previous regulations have permitted additional routes to Regional Finals such as zonal knockouts and regional knockouts. To our knowledge, only one case of these actually exists throughout the state. Accordingly, it is proposed to abolish these additional routes. All qualifying to Regional Finals will take place via CQEs, team nominations or direct entry.

Qualifying teams to Regional Final

In order to earn Gold masterpoints each club that holds a GNOT CQE must send at least 20% of its field to the Regional Final, but may also send any pair/team that finished in the top half of the field. This means:

- For heats up to 9 tables, the club must send at least 1 team to the Regional final;
- For heats between 10-14 tables, the club must send at least 2 teams to the Regional final;
- For heats between 15-19 tables the club must send at least 3 teams to the Regional final; etc.

Nominating teams to Regional Final

Clubs that do not hold a CQE may nominate 1 team per 50 home club members (or part thereof) up to a maximum of 3 teams to the Regional Final.

Direct entry to Regional Final

The NSWBA recognises that there is a wide disparity in the standard of teams entering the club qualifying competitions, both within a region and across all regions in the state. It can be much easier to qualify to a Regional Final from some clubs than from others. The NSWBA will therefore accept entries directly into all Regional Finals. The cost for direct entry will be \$220 per team and all team members must have previously played in a CQE within that region.

REGIONAL FINALS

Each Regional Final will qualify one or more teams (see Appendix A) to the GNOT National Final. It's yet to be confirmed, but it is expected that the National Final will be held at Tweed Heads from Friday 28th November to Monday 1st December 2014.

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 0.2 Gold masterpoints per player, while winners of an 8 board match will receive 0.32 Gold masterpoints per player. Masterpoint costs will be billed to the clubs by the ABF Masterpoint Centre.

In Regional finals this may, depending on the size and number of sessions, increase to 0.06 masterpoints per board. *i.e.* winners of an 8 board match will receive 0.48 Gold Masterpoints per player, while winners of a 10 board match will receive 0.8 Gold masterpoints per player. Masterpoint costs for Regional Finals will be billed to the NSWBA by the ABF Masterpoint Centre.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ABF charges

The ABF makes two charges for the GNOT:

- \$750 per team entered to the National Final
- \$10 per table that enters the event at a qualifying level

The NSWBA is well aware that the ABF has not collected these charges in the past in some regions of NSW, however the ABF has indicated that this largesse is now at an end. The NSWBA has therefore calculated a fee structure that is consistent across all country regions. (Players in the Sydney metropolitan region will be paying slightly more.)

Costs to clubs

The NSWBA will be responsible for paying the above fees to the ABF. It will also be responsible for all Regional Final running costs (including masterpoints awarded in the final). The money will be raised by the following fees:

Fee	\$	Notes
Club qualifying heats or club nominations to the Regional final.	\$10 per table	This is the \$10 per table levy from the ABF and the NSWBA will just collect it and pass it on.
Each team entering the Regional final.	\$200	It is completely up to the clubs how this money is raised. Past practice in many areas was for the club to pay \$80 entry fee and the players to pay \$120 table money.

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 continue to be invoiced by the ABF masterpoint centre for the Gold masterpoints awarded in their qualifying heats.

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.

		Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Tables in CQE	T	7	10	15
Sessions	S	2	2	3
Teams qualifying to Regional Final	R	1	2	3
Funds required				
Regional Final entry fee (assume club pays \$80 per team)	R x \$80	\$80	\$160	\$240
\$10 per table charge	T x \$10	\$70	\$100	\$150
Total required funds	F	\$150	\$260	\$390
Total player sessions				
	P=4xTxS	4 x 7 x 2 = 56	4 x 10 x 2 = 80	4 x 15 x 3 = 180
Premium per player per session needed to raise these funds (<i>Recommend round up to help fund Gold masterpoints.</i>)	F / P	\$2.68 (Say \$3)	\$3.25 (Say \$3.50)	\$2.16 (Say \$2.50)
Funds raised		56 x \$3 = \$168	80 x \$3.50 = \$280	180 x \$2.50 = \$450

Position across NSW

The NSWBA recognises that under this structure, some regions will make a loss and others will make a profit. Our aim is twofold - to break even across the state and to make the costs of entering the event equitable for all players. If there is an overall surplus it will be passed back to the regions – most likely in the form of additional subsidies to teams attending the National Final. Over time, we will be reviewing the structure of the regions and the participation levels with the aim of having every region in a financially viable position.

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 <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2014/gnot/regions.htm>. Please read the regulations carefully, as they explain the conditions that need to be fulfilled for Gold masterpoints to be awarded. If you are unable to access the NSWBA site, contact the NSWBA Office and we will send you a hard copy upon application.

Regards

Warren Lazer
NSWBA Tournament Committee

Appendix A

Northern Zone

Far North (1 team)

Ballina
Ballina Seniors
Brunswick Valley
Byron Bay
Good Sports (Banora Point)
Lennox Head
Lismore
Murwillumbah
Tweed
Twin Towns

Mid North Coast (1 team)

Camden Haven (Laurieton)
Coffs Harbour
Grafton
Great Lakes
Nambucca Valley
Port Macquarie
Port Macquarie-Hastings
Port Macquarie Panthers
Taree
Urunga
Yamba

North (Inland) (1 team)

Armidale
Glen
Gunnedah
Inverell-Delvyn
Moree
New England (Glen Innes)
Oxley (Walcha)
Quirindi
Tamworth
Tenterfield
Warialda & District

Outer Metropolitan Zone

Hunter (3 teams)

Cessnock
Charlestown
Dora Creek
Hawks Nest
Hunter (Singleton)
Lake Macquarie
Maitland
Merewether South
Muswellbrook
Nelson Bay
Newcastle
Port Stephens
Quick Tricks (Merewether)
Scone
Tilligerry (Lemon Tree Passage)
Toronto

Central Coast (1 team)

Brisbane Water
Central Coast
Central Coast Leagues
Community (Bateau Bay)

Mountains (3 team)

Bathurst
Blue Mountains
Glenbrook
Hawkesbury
Mudgee
Penrith
Springwood
St Marys
Upper Mountains
Windsor

Southern & Western Zone

Central West (1 team)

Condobolin
Coonabarabran
Cowra
Dubbo
Forbes
Gulargambone
Narramine/Trangie
Nyngan
Orange
Parkes
Wellington

Far South Coast (1 team)

Batemans Bay
Bega Valley
Bridge @ the Bay (Malua Bay)
Moruya
Sapphire Coast

Southern Highlands & South Coast (1 team)

Berry
Bowral
Bungendore
Goulburn
Illawarra Bridge Association
Kiama & District
Milton
Mollymook
Nowra
Southern Highlands (Bowral)
The Grange (Moss Vale)

South West (1 team)

Commercial Club (Albury)
Griffith
Leeton
Tumbarumba
Tumut
Wagga Wagga