

New South Wales Bridge Association

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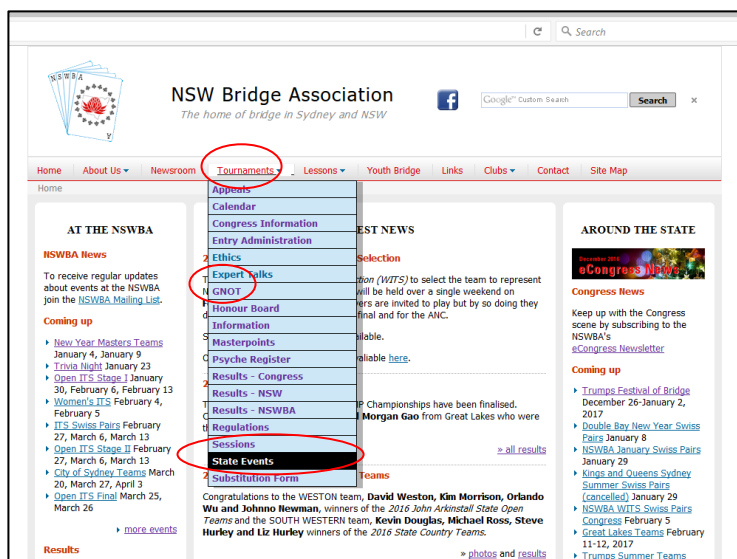
Dear Club Secretary,

If you are not responsible for running events or bridge sessions in your club in 2021, please pass this letter to the person who is, viz. your Tournament Organiser, President or Chief Director.

2020, being “a year like no other”, forced many clubs to play their sessions online or cease playing altogether. Players were offered a similar choice; play socially, on line, or not at all. The ABF helped clubs by setting up the ABF Club Online Games on BBO. The NSWBA met the Covid-19 challenge with RealBridge and realised the potential - online bridge could solve the problems of travel time and accommodation costs associated with F2F finals of state championships. However, for whatever reasons, most players did not embrace online sessions and the major events run on RealBridge attracted small entries. The one exception seems to be the NSWBA’s regular Monday night session where the online entries have been consistently higher than the F2F version of previous years. As it seems that F2F bridge will be possible for most clubs and players in NSW and Australia in 2021, the NSWBA has planned a return to the pre-2020 norm for most of its major events.

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 masterpoints 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, there is no requirement for your club to send club representatives to the next stage of the event.

Most clubs have lost members and are going to have to work hard to get them back. Clubs holding qualifying rounds of the various NSW state championships and the [GNOT](#) may be able to use the red and gold masterpoints these events award to lure your players back to the bridge table.



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

On the State Events page you will find links to each event, listed in chronological order. Full details for any particular event can be found by following the relevant link.

A short summary of each State Championship in which clubs can participate is given on the following two pages.

Warren Lazer (Chairman, NSWBA Events Committee)

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

www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2021&E=smp

You can play up to 4 session of this event in your club. Red masterpoints are awarded with a weighting factor of 3.75 and the NSWBA pays for them. 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 21st May 2021.

There are travel & accommodation grants for representatives of country clubs attending the Finals at the NSWBA on 29th & 30th May, 2021.

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

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

www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2021&E=sop

You can play up to 4 session of this event in your club. Red masterpoints are awarded with a weighting factor of 5.00 and the NSWBA pays for them. 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 12th November, 2021.

There are travel & accommodation grants for representatives of country clubs attending the Finals at the NSWBA on 20th & 21st November, 2021.

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

The State Wide Pairs

www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2021&E=swp

This event is now a single session event played during the week of 1st - 7th August.

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

www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2021&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 during the week 22nd - 28th November.

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

www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2021&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 12-14 November 2021.

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

www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2021&E=sotmetro

Red masterpoints awarded with weighting factor of 5.0. There is no longer a requirement that you must send a club representative team to the Metropolitan Final in order to receive red masterpoints.

The deadline for receipt of club entries to the Metropolitan Final is Monday 11th October.

The Metropolitan Final is incorporated into the NSWBA Jacaranda Teams Congress on 24th October.

Teams entering at the club level and progressing to the Metropolitan Final pay just \$80. Teams entering the Metropolitan Final directly pay \$160.

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

www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2021&E=sotct

Two teams from each of the Northern and Outer Metropolitan Zones along with one team from each of the Southern and Western Zones 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 helenmilwardbridge@gmail.com

A summary of the significant dates for the 2021 Country Teams Championship follows.

Friday 5 th March:	Deadline for applications from clubs to host Regional Final.
Friday 5 th March:	Deadline for applications from clubs to host Zonal Final.
Sat 27 th & Sun 28 th June:	Date of Northern Zone Final
Sun 19 th September:	Date of Outer Metropolitan Zone Final
Sun 3 rd October:	Date of Southern and Western Zone Finals
Fri 12 th & Sat 13 th November	Qualification rounds of John Arkinstall State Teams Finals at the NSWBA.
Sun 14 th November:	Final of the NSWBA Country Teams Championship.
Sun 14 th November:	Final of the John Arkinstall State Teams Championship.