



# New South Wales Bridge Association



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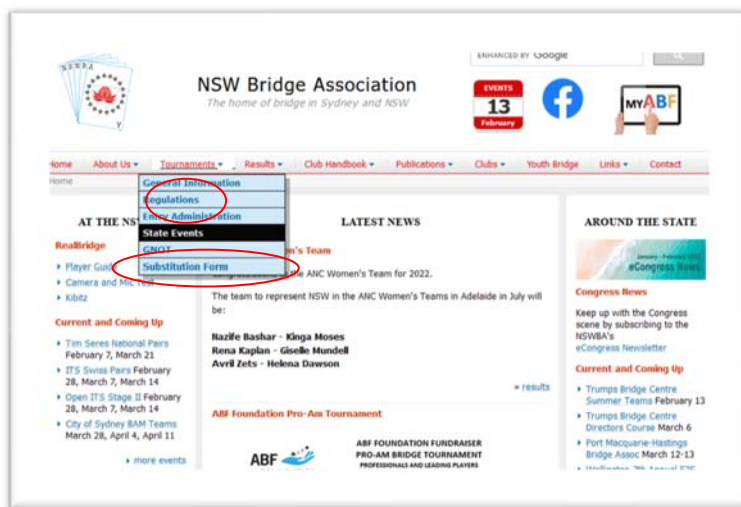
ABN: 61 000 438 648

February 2023

Dear Club Secretary,

If you are not responsible for running events or bridge sessions in your club in 2023, 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 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.



Go to [www.nswba.com.au](http://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.

COVID-19 and the development of online bridge software, notably RealBridge, has changed the way many of us now play. Indeed, the ABF recently established a committee to examine and make recommendations on all aspects of online bridge. Health concerns and significant increases in travel and accommodation costs have had a big impact on players' willingness to travel to events.

How did all this affect the major championship events in NSW in 2022?

Participation rates in clubs in most events were down about 10% compared to pre-COVID levels. The previously very popular Country Pairs and Country Mixed Pairs Finals in Sydney were not held as there were not enough eligible pairs. Two spots in the Country Teams Final (held in Sydney) were unfilled. Some GNOT regions were unable to fulfil their commitments.

How is the NSWBA responding in 2023?

The major change is that the Finals of the State Open and Country Teams will be held on RealBridge – playing a final that extends over 3 days online is a huge saving in time and money for the six country teams that participate. The Country Mixed and Open Pairs Finals will remain as F2F events in Sydney, but if the numbers don't rebound, a completely new online format may be implemented in 2024. Some redistribution of the allocation of spots in the GNOT national final have been made.

Most clubs have lost members and are working hard to get them back and teach new members. 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 players back to the bridge table. A short summary of the events organised by the NSWBA is given on the following pages.

Warren Lazer (Chairman, NSWBA Events Committee)

**The events listed below include club qualifying sessions. They provide clubs with red MP sessions in addition to their B4c allowance.**

*The State Mixed Pairs Championship (incorporating the Country Mixed Pairs Championship)*  
[www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=smp](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=smp)

You can play up to 4 sessions of this event in your club. Red masterpoints are awarded with a weighting factor of 3.75 and the NSWBA pays up to \$30 of their cost if you send a pair to the State Final.

Online sessions are restricted to members of clubs affiliated with the NSWBA.

Qualifying rounds to be completed before Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023

There are travel & accommodation grants for representatives of country clubs attending the Finals at the NSWBA on 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

Tournament Organiser: Wing Roberts [office@nswba.com.au](mailto:office@nswba.com.au)

*The State Open Pairs Championship (incorporating the Country Pairs Championship)*  
[www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=sop](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=sop)

You can play up to 4 sessions of this event in your club. Red masterpoints are awarded with a weighting factor of 5.00 and the NSWBA pays up to \$30 of their cost if you send a pair to the State Final.

Online sessions are restricted to members of clubs affiliated with the NSWBA.

Qualifying rounds to be completed before Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

There are travel & accommodation grants for representatives of country clubs attending the Finals at the NSWBA on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Tournament Organiser: Wing Roberts [office@nswba.com.au](mailto:office@nswba.com.au)

*The State Wide Pairs*

[www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=swp](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=swp)

This event is a single session event played during the week of 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:swp@nswba.com.au)

*The Under 100 Masterpoints Pairs Championships*

[www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=uhmp](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&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 from September through to November.

Finals are held at multiple venues around the state during the week 27<sup>th</sup> November to 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:uhmp@nswba.com.au)

**The events listed below include club qualifying sessions. They provide clubs with red or gold MP sessions in addition to their B4c allowance.**

*The John Arkinstall State Teams Championship*

[www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=sot](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&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 will be held online on RealBridge on 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

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=2023&E=sotmetro](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=sotmetro)

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

The deadline for receipt of club entries to the Metropolitan Final is Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

The Metropolitan Final is incorporated into the NSWBA Jacaranda Teams Congress on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Teams entering at the club level and progressing to the Metropolitan Final pay just \$120. 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](mailto: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=2023&E=sotct](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&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 and sessional awards.

Tournament Organiser: Helen Milward [helenmilwardbridge@gmail.com](mailto:helenmilwardbridge@gmail.com)

A summary of the significant dates for the 2023 Country Teams Championship follows.

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> & Sat 25<sup>th</sup> November      Qualification rounds of John Arkinstall State Teams Finals  
online on the RealBridge platform

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> November:                      Final of the NSWBA Country Teams Championship.

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> November:                      Final of the John Arkinstall State Teams Championship

Dates for the various Regional and Zonal Finals will be published on the above website as they become available.

*The Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) – an ABF Gold masterpoint event*

[www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2023/gnot/](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2023/gnot/)

The NSWBA will send 22 teams to the National Final in Brisbane on 1-4<sup>th</sup> December; 7 of these teams will come from the Sydney Metropolitan region, the remaining 15 teams from regional NSW.

The ABF provides travel grants to teams that attend the National Final.

The GNOT is the only opportunity for players to earn Gold Masterpoints in their local club.

**The following events are State Championships or major events run by the NSWBA. They differ from those listed on the previous pages as players enter them directly. There are no club qualifying sessions.**

#### *Online Pairs League*

[www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=opl](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=opl)

Venue: Played online on the RealBridge platform

Each season runs for 8 weeks on Thursdays at 7.30pm playing one 12-board match each week.

Entry fee: \$50 per player, or \$25 per player if <100 Masterpoints. Early bird discounts available.

Tournament Organiser: Alan Bustany [alan.bustany@gmail.com](mailto:alan.bustany@gmail.com)

#### *State Seniors Championships*

[www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=ss](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=ss)

Players must be born before January 1, 1961

Venue: The Central Coast Leagues Club, Dane Drive, Gosford.

Pairs: Tuesday 30 & Wednesday 31 May 2023

Teams: Thursday 1 & Friday 2 June 2023

Tournament Organiser: Louis Koolen [lkoolen@bigpond.net.au](mailto:lkoolen@bigpond.net.au)

#### *State Individual*

[www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=ind](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=ind)

Venue: Online on BBO (Bridge Base Online)

Date: Saturday, 29 July 2023. Two sessions commencing at 10am.

Players must have an account with BBO.

The scoring is normal matchpoints, but your partner and opponents are different each round.

Prior entry is essential.

Tournament Organiser: Wing Roberts [office@nswba.com.au](mailto:office@nswba.com.au)

#### *State Veterans Championships*

[www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=sv](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=sv)

For players who have turned 70, or will turn 70 during 2023.

Venue: The Horizons Golf Resort, 5 Horizons Drive, Salamander Bay.

Pairs: Tuesday 1 & Wednesday 2 August 2023

Teams: Thursday 3 & Friday 4 August 2023

Tournament Organiser: Kay Baguley [bkbaguley@yahoo.com](mailto:bkbaguley@yahoo.com)

#### *State Novice and Restricted Teams*

[www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=srt](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=srt)

For players with fewer than 300 masterpoints after 1 October Masterpoint Centre update.

Novice: < 100 masterpoints

Restricted: < 300 masterpoints

Venue: Central Coast Bridge Club, 415 The Entrance Road, Long Jetty.

Date: Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 November 2023

Entry fee: \$90 per player, includes lunch on both days.

Tournament Organiser: Marilyn Scott [ccbconvenor@gmail.com](mailto:ccbconvenor@gmail.com)