

The GRAND NATIONAL PAIRS - 2012

Dear Club Secretary,

Firstly, congratulations to Cheryl Barrett & Martin Clear, who won the 2011 Grand National Pairs Final at the Summer Festival in Canberra. They qualified initially via NSWBA.

The ABF will be running the Grand National Pairs again in 2013. The event is open to all players below the rank of Life Master at 1st January 2012. Run on similar lines to the GNOT (Grand National Open Teams), this event is the only other chance that "restricted" players will have to gain GOLD masterpoints in their local clubs. Within the Sydney region, we have up to 55 clubs that can participate in this competition. Each club will have the chance to qualify a number of pairs to the Regional Final, which will be held on Sunday 18th November at the North Shore Bridge Club at the Club Willoughby venue. This Regional Final will qualify at 8 pairs to the National Final which will be held on Saturday and Sunday 19th to 20th January 2013 as part of the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra.

It would certainly be appreciated if your Committee could give due consideration to scheduling at least one qualifying event within your current sessions and provide this opportunity to your restricted players to earn some gold points. While a number of senior players may frown on the masterpoint scheme, I still find that for the less experienced players it is a "big buzz" and sense of achievement to win them. Clubs wishing to participate should appoint a GNP Club Coordinator with whom I can liaise directly and advise me by email of his/her name, email address and phone number. If your club does not intend to participate, I would appreciate a note to that effect and perhaps a short reason as to why not.

All the conditions of entry and club selection events can be found on the internet via the ABF website at <http://www.abf.com.au/events/gnp/> but the main points are summarised below:

1. • Club qualifying events must be matchpoint pairs of between three and seven sessions. They may be stand alone events or normal sessions with just the restricted players being eligible to win the Gold masterpoints. Masterpoints are awarded to 50% of the field. (same as last year)
2. • Clubs will qualify between 2 and 20 pairs to the Regional Final. Many clubs failed to send the minimum number of representative pairs to the Metropolitan Final last year, so your club coordinator should ensure that the participants are made fully aware that there is an ongoing commitment.
 - a. **All clubs have a requirement to send a "relevant" number of pairs to the Metropolitan Final in November and clubs will be required to pay entry fees and table fees for any shortfall.**

The minimum numbers of pairs are clearly defined in section 4.4b of the ABF 2012 GNP regulations, which can be found at abf.com.au/events/gnp/2012/GNP_Regulations_2012.pdf, but are:-

- less than 5 tables of eligible players 2 pairs
- 5 to 8 tables of eligible players 3 pairs
- 8½ to 12 tables of eligible players 4 pairs
- 12½ to 18 tables of eligible players 6 pairs
- 18½ to 25 tables of eligible players 8 pairs
- more than 25 tables of eligible players 10 pairs

3. The Regional Final will qualify 8 pairs to the National Final.
4. Entry fee for the Regional Final is \$45 per pair, payable by the Club. It is recommended that clubs charge a tournament entry fee of \$2 per player per session to cover this charge.
5. Table money for the Regional Final is \$40 per pair, payable by the players.
6. Entry fee for the National Final is \$400 per pair, payable by the NSWBA.

If you require any future information either to set up an event or generally ask questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Mobile 0437 274343 or email to gnp@nswba.com.au
In the meantime, here is to promoting the restricted members of our bridge community.



Yours sincerely,
John McIlrath
GNP Coordinator for Metropolitan Sydney