

2011 Grand National Open Teams Competition

December, 2010

Dear Tournament Secretary,

Tony Musgrove, after having convened the Sydney Metropolitan region of the GNOT since 2002, has stepped down as Convener. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Tony for doing such a great job over the last decade and announce that Michael Wilkinson will be taking over the job of Convener for 2011. Michael is a regular Congress and Tournament player, as well as a Director, so may be known to many of you already.

Unfortunately, I also need to inform you that the ABF, has increased the entry fee for our 8 teams to the National Finals from \$660 to \$750 per team. The NSWBA has decided to cover this increase in entry fees by raising the current \$10 per team initial entry to \$12. The entry fee for each team that qualifies to the Metropolitan Final will also rise from \$205 to \$210.

Other than the change of personnel and the price increases, the regulations for the event will essentially be unchanged from 2010. As usual, the co-operation of all Sydney metropolitan clubs is being sought to ensure the maximum number of entrants, since this determines how many teams are allowed to represent Sydney in the National Final (currently eight teams). If your club has regularly participated in the GNOT qualifying rounds we are confident that you will once again enjoy the 2011 competition.

All metropolitan Sydney clubs are invited to hold qualifying events to determine representative teams that will compete in a Metropolitan Final at the NSWBA on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th October.* Entry will be on the basis of one team for every 7 entered in each club qualifying event. Although it is necessary for teams to attend both the Saturday sessions of the Metropolitan Final, it is permissible to retire hurt from the Sunday Swiss repechage. The Metropolitan Final qualifies four teams to the GNOT National Final which will be held at Tweed Heads from Friday 25th to Monday 28th November 2011. 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 14 board match will receive 0.56 Gold Masterpoints per player, while winners of a 32 board match will receive 1.28 masterpoints per player.

In addition, three Metropolitan centres hold heats where an additional four teams are awarded direct qualification into the National Final. Outright Gold Masterpoints will be made to the top third of the field for these direct qualifying events. Centres where teams may qualify directly to the GNOT National Final are as follows:

- i) The Double Bay Bridge Centre on 5 Wednesday evenings, April 27th to May 25th (one team to qualify),
- ii) NSWBA on 5 Monday evenings, June 6th, June 20th to July 11th (2 teams to qualify),
- iii) The North Shore Bridge Club on 4 Thursday evenings, August 25th to September 15th (one team to qualify).

*The NSWBA is aware that the Jewish Day of Atonement falls on Saturday 8th October – teams affected by this will be allowed to have 2 substitute players all day on the Saturday.

The Supplementary Tournament Regulations, that are to be read in association with the NSWBA Tournament Regulations, are posted separately on the NSWBA web site <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2011/gnot/index.htm>. I would appreciate not having to duplicate this document unnecessarily, but if you are unable to access the NSWBA site, I will send you a hard copy upon application. Please read the regulations carefully, as they explain the conditions that need to be fulfilled for Gold masterpoints to be awarded. The cost per master point is \$1.16 per point.

There have been no substantial changes from last year. Clubs will run their competitions as usual, with the initial entry to each event determining the number of teams that will qualify to the Metropolitan Final. The participating club can then select those teams in whatever way it likes. Naturally we (and especially your players) would expect the club to offer the qualifying spots to the teams in the order in which they finish, but this is completely up to the clubs. If team members become unavailable at the last moment, it should be a simple matter for the club to find a couple of replacement players or even a completely new replacement team. The NSWBA will be imposing no restrictions on how you solve these problems.

So although clubs can set their own regulations, they still have to answer to their own members and players. If you want to maintain substitution and augmentation rules similar to those of previous years, you may. If you want to offer one of the qualification spots to, for example, the team that wins your 2011 Club Championship, you can do that. It's completely up to you.

Note that teams of 4 or 5 players that qualify to the National Final via a Club Qualifier and thence the Metropolitan Final will be allowed to augment.

The NSWBA recognises that there is a wide disparity in the standard of teams entering the club qualifying competitions across the Metropolitan region and that it is much easier to qualify from some clubs than from others. Consequently, the NSWBA will be accepting entries directly into the Metropolitan Final. The cost for direct entry will be \$250 per team and all team members must have previously played in a club qualifying competition. Teams that take advantage of this direct entry facility are not permitted to augment at the conclusion of the Metropolitan Final.

We have a list of clubs who entered this event in 2010, and in most cases an email address of some responsible person at the club. It is generally easiest to communicate entirely by email, so please let Michael know if your club's responsible person has changed, or if the email address has changed. It would also help Michael if you could let him know, via email, if your club is intending to hold a heat this year as in the final stages it is important to know who to chase for the inevitable last minute results, money, *etc.*

Should you require further details please contact the Convener of the event:

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Warren Lazer
Chairman, NSWBA Tournament Committee 2010