



NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



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2023 Grand National Open Teams - Sydney Metro Region

January, 2023

Fraser Rew will continue in the role of Metropolitan GNOT Organiser for 2023. Let's try and increase GNOT participation as the threats from Covid decrease. If the number of teams progressing to the Metropolitan Final doesn't increase it's very likely we will reduce the number of teams we send to the National Final in 2024.

The ABF have not made any changes, so NSW has 22 places in the National Finals, 7 of which are assigned to the Sydney Metropolitan Region. Masterpoint charges have increased slightly to \$1.31 per gold MP. Other charges will remain at the 2019-22 levels

The National Finals are scheduled to be run on 1-4 December in Brisbane. **The Sydney Metropolitan Regional Final is scheduled for 5 & 6 August – note that this is about 6 weeks earlier than has been the past practice.** It will be played F2F at the NSWBA. Club GNOT events may be played F2F or online on RealBridge. Events run on BBO or StepBridge are no longer allowed.

Please send the right things to the right people at the conclusion of your club events:

The State Masterpoint Secretary, David Weston, masterpoints@nswba.com.au requires;

- (i) The format of your event
- (ii) The number of boards played in each round
- (iii) The scores for each match played
- (iv) A .gld masterpoint file

The Metropolitan GNOT Organiser, Fraser, metrognot@nswba.com.au requires;

- (i) The number of teams which participated in your club heat
- (ii) The names of those who will represent your club at the Metropolitan Final

The regulations can, as usual, be found on the NSWBA site;

www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2023/gnot/metro.asp

Should you require further details please contact Fraser – preferably by e-mail:

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Warren Lazer
Chairman, NSWBA Events Committee

Fraser Rew
Metropolitan GNOT Organiser

GRAND NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS (GNOT)

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 (currently 60 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.
- 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 GNOT regions in NSW. The ABF has stipulated that NSWBA is to send 22 teams to the National Final - 7 of these will come from the Sydney Metropolitan region, the remaining 15 from elsewhere in NSW.

The NSWBA appoints a Metropolitan GNOT Organiser, a Country GNOT Organiser and a team of Regional Organisers who are responsible for conducting the GNOT in NSW.

All clubs have been assigned to one region only and can qualify teams only to that region's Final. These regions are slightly different to those used for the Country Teams or administrative purposes.

The list of clubs assigned to the Sydney Metropolitan Region can be found in Appendix A.

FURTHER DETAIL

Separate more detailed sections now follow describing:

- Club Qualifying Events
- The Metropolitan Final
- Direct Qualifying Events
- Masterpoints
- Financial information

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

CLUB QUALIFYING EVENTS (CQE)

All clubs in metropolitan Sydney are invited to hold qualifying events (CQEs) to determine representative teams that will compete in the Metropolitan Final.

Clubs may hold one, two or three separate qualifying events, each being 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 metropolitan Sydney, subject to the rules of the club holding the CQE.

Event formats

CQEs may be in the following formats:

- Teams.
- IMP pairs events (Butler or cross IMPs) with teams then formed from eligible pairs.

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 masterpoints) and to allow the club to collect sufficient monies to fund team entry fees to the Metropolitan Final – see Financial information section for details.

Qualifying teams to the Metropolitan Final

The number of teams to qualify to the Metropolitan Final from each separate CQE is calculated as follows from the number of tables in play. A maximum of one seventh (fractions rounded up) may qualify and a minimum of one seventh (fractions rounded down) must qualify. This means:

- For heats up to 7 tables, the club must send 1 team to the Metropolitan Final;
- For heats between 8-13 tables, the club must send 1 or 2 teams to the Metropolitan Final;
- For heat of exactly 14 tables the club must send 2 teams to the Metropolitan Final;
- For heats between 15-20 tables, the club must send 2 or 3 teams to the Metropolitan Final; *etc.*

A club must send at least one seventh of its CQE field to the Metropolitan Final in order to award Gold masterpoints.

Nominating teams to the Metropolitan Final

Clubs that do not hold a CQE may nominate one (1) team to the Metropolitan Final.

Direct entry of teams to the Metropolitan Final

The NSWBA recognises that there is a wide disparity in the standard of teams entering the club qualifying competitions. It can be much easier to qualify to the Metropolitan Final from some clubs than from others. The NSWBA will therefore accept entries directly into the Metropolitan Final. The cost for direct entry will be \$280 per team and all team members must have previously played in a CQE within the Sydney metropolitan region.

METROPOLITAN FINAL

The Metropolitan Final will qualify four teams to the GNOT National Final. The Metropolitan Final is a double knockout with Swiss repechage, but the exact format is dependent on the number of teams playing. The Metropolitan Final is scheduled to be held at the NSWBA on the weekend of 5-6 August 2023.

DIRECT QUALIFYING EVENTS (DQE)

The Sydney metropolitan region is unique in NSW in that it contains about half the state's affiliated clubs and the majority of the state's top players. The DQEs provide an opportunity for teams to bypass the Metropolitan Final and qualify directly to the National Final.

The NSWBA DQE qualifies 2 teams directly to the National Final; the North Shore Bridge Club DQE qualifies 1 team directly to the National Final. Both events also qualify one seventh of their field to the Metropolitan Final. The DQEs are open to all residents of Sydney and the immediately neighbouring GNOT regions (*viz.*, Central Coast, Mountains and Tablelands-Illawarra).

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 0.20 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. CQEs may be held as online events on RealBridge.

In the Metropolitan Final, these awards increase to 0.06 masterpoints per board, *i.e.* winners of a 14 board match (or segment) will receive 0.84 Gold Masterpoints per player. In the case of 5 or 6 person teams, the masterpoint awards per member will be 4/5 and 2/3 respectively. Outright masterpoints will be awarded to the top third of the field. Masterpoint costs for the Metropolitan Final 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 has calculated a fee structure that allows clubs to collect sufficient funds to cover further entry fees and masterpoint charges and is consistent across all regions. (Players in the country regions will be paying slightly less.)

Costs to clubs

The NSWBA will be responsible for paying the above fees to the ABF. It will also be responsible for Metropolitan Final running costs. The money will be raised by the following fees:

Fee	\$	Notes
Club qualifying heats or club nominations to the Metropolitan Final.	\$12 per table	This covers the \$10 per table levy from the ABF which the NSWBA collects and passes on. The \$2 extra premium helps defray the event costs across all players.
Each team entering the Metropolitan Final.	\$220	It is completely up to the clubs how this money is raised. Some clubs pay the entire amount, whilst others share the cost with the team, (say \$100 from the club and \$120 from the players). However the money is raised, the NSWBA will invoice the club for the full amount.

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 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 table on the following page gives some examples of how to calculate a reasonable amount for clubs who run small, medium and large CQEs.

Table: Calculating entry fee per player

		Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Tables in CQE	T	7	12	18
Sessions	S	2	2	3
Teams qualifying to Metro Final	R	1	2	3
Funds required				
Metropolitan Final entry fee (assume club pays \$100 per team and players pay \$120)	R x \$100	\$100	\$200	\$300
\$12 per table charge	T x \$12	\$84	\$144	\$216
Total required funds	F	\$184	\$344	\$516
Total player sessions	P = 4 x T x S	4 x 7 x 2 = 56	4 x 12 x 2 = 96	4 x 18 x 3 = 216
Premium per player per session needed to raise these funds <i>(Recommend round up to help fund Gold masterpoints.)</i>	F / P	184/56 = \$3.29 (Say \$3.50)	344/96 = \$3.58 (Say \$4.00)	516/216 = \$2.39 (Say \$2.50)
Funds raised		56 x \$3.50 = \$196	96 x \$4.00 = \$384	216 x \$2.50 = \$540

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 www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2023/gnot/metro.asp. 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.

Appendix A: Clubs in the Sydney Metropolitan GNOT Region
Metropolitan Organiser: Fraser Rew metrognot@nswba.com.au

ARV Bridge Club	Macarthur Collegians Bridge Club
Bayview Bridge Club	Manly Golf Club Bridge Group
Bridge Away	Manly Warringah Leagues Bridge Club
Bridge Club Services	MasterBridge Online
Bridge with Beauchamp	Mona Vale Bridge Club
Bridgefollk	Mosman Park Bridge Club
Carlingford Bridge Club	Narrabeen Bridge Club
Carnarvon Bridge Club	North Shore Bridge Club
Castle Hill Bridge Club	North Sydney Leagues Bridge Club
Cheltenham Bridge Club	NSBC@Lindfield
Concord Bridge Club	Palm Beach Bridge Club
Cromer Bridge Club	Parramatta Bridge Club
Double Bay Bridge Centre	Peninsula Bridge Club
Easts Bridge Club	Pennant Hills Bridge Club
Elanora Country Club	Port Hacking Bridge Club
Eventz in Paradise	Randwick Bridge Club
Finesse Bridge Club	RMYC Newport Bridge Club
Forest Bridge Club	Royal Sydney Golf Club
Forestville RSL Bridge Club	Seaforth Bridge Club
Funbridge Australia	Social Bridge Ryde
Harbord Diggers Bridge Club	St George Budapest Bridge Club
Harbourview Bridge Club	Strathfield Bridge Club
Helane K Tours	Sydney Bridge Centre
Holiday Bridge	Sydney University Bridge Club
Hunters Hill Bridge Club	The Killara Golf Club Limited Bridge Club
Hurstville Bridge Club	The St George Bridge Club
Ingleburn RSL Bridge Club	Thornleigh Bridge Club
Killara Bridge Club	Trumps Bridge Centre
Kings and Queens Sydney	Turramurra Bridge Club
Long Reef Bridge Club	Wollstonecraft Bridge Club