NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

First Floor, 162 Goulburn Street, East Sydney 2010.
Telephone: 9264 8111 E-mail: office@nswba.com.au Web: www.nswba.com.au
ABN 61 000 438 648

2023 Grand National Open Teams - Country NSW Regions

January, 2023

Ronnie Ng will continue in the role of Country GNOT Organiser for 2023, and hopefully beyond. Current planning is for all Regional Finals to be F2F events. The National Finals are scheduled to be run in Brisbane on 1-4 December.

The ABF has not made any changes, so NSW country has 15 places in the National Finals. Based on last year's participation rate, there has been one change in how these are allocated. Further changes may occur in 2024, including a reduction in the overall number of teams that the NSWBA sends to the National Final. Please try to increase the participation rate in your region this year so that you are not adversely affected. Charges will remain at the 2019-22 levels, though the cost of masterpoints has risen to $1.31 per gold MP.

Events may be played F2F or online using the RealBridge platform. GNOT sessions run on BBO or StepBridge are not permitted. Only players eligible to enter a face-to-face GNOT event are eligible to enter the online equivalent. Events should be scheduled as either F2F or online, not a mixture.

Once you have run your club's heat you need to send the club heat form (fully completed) to your Regional Organiser.

Bill Powell gnotmp@nswba.com.au will again take on the role of Regional GNOT Masterpoint Adviser. To get your masterpoints processed you must send **all** the following to Bill:
  (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
Once Bill is satisfied that your file is correct he will submit it to the ABF Masterpoint Centre.

Further details about the event can be found on the NSWBA website;
www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2023/gnot/regions.asp

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

Ronnie Ng
Country GNOT Organiser
c/- NSWBA,
First Floor, 162 Goulburn St,
East Sydney, NSW, 2010.

email: countrygnot@nswba.com.au   **Mobile: 0405 507 753**

An overview of the GNOT and how it is conducted in NSW follows on the subsequent pages. Happy bridging,

Warren Lazer
Chairman, NSWBA Events Committee

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 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 Sydney Metropolitan 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.

Each Country GNOT region in NSW, the affiliated clubs therein, and the number of teams it will qualify to the National Final can be found in Appendix A. Conduct of the GNOT in each region will primarily be the responsibility of a Regional Organiser who can also be found in Appendix A.

FURTHER DETAIL

Separate more detailed sections now follow describing:
- Club qualifying events
- Regional Finals
- Masterpoints
- Financial information

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

CLUB QUALIFYING EVENTS

All clubs within a region are invited to hold qualifying events (CQEs) to determine representative teams that will compete in a Regional Final.

Clubs may hold one or two separate qualifying heats. Each must be 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 a region or even in different regions (if they happen to belong to clubs in different regions).

All clubs have been assigned to one region only and can qualify teams only to that region's Final. These regions are not set in stone. If your club wants to move to a different region, please let Ronnie Ng know as soon as possible.

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 the entry fees to later stages – see Financial information section for details.

Qualifying teams to the Regional Final
In order to earn Gold masterpoints each club that holds a GNOT CQE must send at least 20% of its field to the Regional Final. This means:
- For heats up to 9 tables, the club must send at least 1 team to the Regional Final;
- For heats between 10-14 tables, the club must send at least 2 teams to the Regional Final;
- For heats between 15-19 tables the club must send at least 3 teams to the Regional Final; *etc*.

Clubs may also send any team that finished in the top half of the field.

Nominating teams to the Regional Final
Clubs that do not hold a CQE may nominate 1 team per 50 home club members (or part thereof) up to a maximum of 3 teams to the Regional Final.

Direct entry of teams to the Regional Final
The NSWBA recognises that there is a wide disparity in the standard of teams entering the club qualifying competitions, both within a region and across all regions in the state. It can be much easier to qualify to a Regional Final from some clubs than from others. The NSWBA will therefore accept entries directly into all Regional Finals. The cost for direct entry will be $240 per team and all team members must have previously played in a CQE within that region.

REGIONAL FINALS

Each Regional Final will qualify one or more teams (see Appendix A) to the GNOT National Final. The National Final is scheduled to be held in Brisbane from Friday 1st to Monday 4th December 2023.

The NSWBA does not pay for catering in Regional Finals. Clubs holding RFs may charge the players a small premium to cover these costs.

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 with gold MPs are awarded as above. Sessions held on BBO or StepBridge are not permitted.

In Regional Finals, depending on the size and number of sessions, these awards may increase to 0.06 masterpoints per board, *i.e.* winners of an 8 board match will receive 0.48 Gold Masterpoints per player, while winners of a 10 board match will receive 0.60 Gold masterpoints per player. Masterpoint costs for Regional Finals will be billed to the NSWBA by the ABF Masterpoint Centre.

In the case of 5 or 6 person teams, the masterpoint awards per member will be 4/5 and 2/3 respectively unless the exact team composition is supplied for every match played.

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 country regions. (Players in the Sydney metropolitan region will be paying slightly more.)

Costs to clubs
The NSWBA will be responsible for paying the above fees to the ABF. It will also be responsible for all Regional Final running costs (including masterpoints awarded in the Final). The money will be raised by the following fees:

Fee	$	Notes
Club qualifying heats or club nominations to the Regional 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 Regional Final.	$200	It is completely up to the clubs how this money is raised. Past practice in many areas was for the club to pay $80 entry fee and the players to pay $120 table money. 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	10	15
Sessions	**S**	2	2	3
Teams qualifying to Regional Final	**R**	1	2	3
Funds required				
Regional Final entry fee (assume club pays $80 per team)	**R x $80**	$80	$160	$240
$12 per table charge	**T x $12**	$84	$120	$180
Total required funds	**F**	**$164**	**$280**	**$420**
Total player sessions	**P = 4 x T x S**	4 x 7 x 2 = 56	4 x 10 x 2 = 80	4 x 15 x 3 = 180
Premium per player per session needed to raise these funds *(Recommend round up to help fund Gold masterpoints.)*	**F / P**	$2.93 (Say $3)	$3.50 (Say $3.50)	$2.33 (Say $2.50)
Funds raised		**56 x $3 = $168**	**80 x $3.50 = $280**	**180 x $2.50 = $450**

Position across NSW

The NSWBA recognises that under this structure, some regions will make a loss and others will make a profit. Our aim is twofold - to break even across the state and to make the costs of entering the event equitable for all players. If there is an overall surplus it will be passed back to the regions – most likely in the form of additional subsidies to teams attending the National Final. Over time, we will be reviewing the structure of the regions and the participation levels with the aim of having every region in a financially viable position.

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/regions.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

Northern Zone

Northern Rivers (1 teams)
Organiser: Marjorie Askew
Ballina
Brunswick Valley
Byron Bay
Lennox Head
Lismore
Murwillumbah
Tweed
Twin Towns

Mid North Coast (2 teams)
Organiser: Ray Ingielewicz
Camden Haven (Laurieton)
Coffs Harbour
Grafton
Great Lakes
Nambucca River
Nambucca Valley
Port Macquarie
Port Macquarie-Hastings
Port Macquarie Oxley
PP
Taree
Urunga
Yamba

Central Inland (1 team)
Organiser: Bruce Tier
Armidale
Glen
Gunnedah
Inverell-Delvyn
New England (Glen Innes)
Oxley (Walcha)
Quirindi
Tamworth
Tenterfield
Warialda & District

Hunter Central Coast Zone

Hunter (3 teams)
Organiser: Ken Wilks
Belmont
Cessnock
Charlestown
Hawks Nest
Hunter (Singleton)
Lake Macquarie
Maitland
Muswellbrook
Newcastle
Quick Tricks (Merewether)
Scone
Southlakes
Tilligerry (Lemon Tree Passage)
Tomaree
Toronto
Wests City (Newcastle)

Central Coast (1 team)
Organiser: Ronnie Ng
Brisbane Water
Central Coast
Central Coast Leagues
Community (Bateau Bay)

Mountains (2 teams)
Organiser: Kerry Hatswell
Bathurst
Blue Mountains
Glenbrook
Hawkesbury
Mudgee
Penrith
Springwood
Windsor

Western Zone

Western NSW (1 team)
Organiser: David Reddel
Condobolin
Coonabarabran
Cowra
Dubbo
Forbes
Gulargambone
Narromine/Trangie
Orange
Parkes
Wellington

South West NSW (1 team)
Organiser: Adrian Thompson
Commercial Club (Albury)
Griffith
Leeton
Riverview (Wagga Wagga)
Tumbarumba
Tumut
Wagga Wagga
West Wyalong

Southern Zone

South Coast (1 team)
Organiser: Karen Creet
Batemans Bay
Bega Valley
Bridge @ the Bay (Malua Bay)
Milton
Mollymook
Moruya
Sapphire Coast

Tablelands-Illawarra (2 teams)
Organiser: Steve Brabyn
Berry
Bowral
Bungendore
Goulburn
Illawarra Bridge Association
Kiama & District
Nowra
Southern Highlands (Bowral)