



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

Country Carnival 2014

March 2014

For the attention of the Tournament Secretary, non-Metropolitan affiliated Clubs

Introduction

2014 will see the introduction of the Country Carnival. This NSWBA initiative aims to allow clubs to award red Masterpoints (B4s) as compensation for the cancellation of the Grand National Pairs. This is an outcome from the Regional Representatives meeting last year.

The competition will be run by the NSWBA and the convener will be Louis Koolen (phone: 43897203 and email: lkoolen@bigpond.net.au). The intent is to hold the Final of the Country Carnival in a different major centre within NSW each year. Ideally, the finals will be associated with a local country Congress, or a State Championship hosted in the country, attracting players from all over the state.

In this inaugural year, the Country Carnival Final will be part of the Australian National Championships, to be held in July at Canterbury Racecourse in Sydney. Restricted finalists will enter the Restricted Butler Pairs. All other finalists will enter the Flighted Butler Pairs.

Structure

The Country Carnival is both a pairs event and an interzonal competition. It starts with Club Qualifying events, progresses to Regional Finals and culminates in the final, the Country Carnival.

There are three categories:

- Novice (<100MP)
- Restricted (<300MP)
- Open

Each Region may provide up to six pairs to the Country Carnival Final: 2 in the Novice, 2 in the Restricted and 2 in the Open category. All category winners will receive prize money and medallions.

Zones will compete against each other for an overall zonal trophy, based on aggregate results of their pairs and adjusted to take into account the number of pairs in each category from each zone. Zones with fewer representative pairs will therefore not be disadvantaged.

Clubs can hold qualifying events (CQE), which can be Butler or matchpoint pairs, feeding into Regional Finals (RF), using B4s grade masterpoints. Easiest format would be a flighted event, where you select the top pair in each category and direction. Clubs holding qualifying events should plan to raise sufficient monies to pay for the entry fees for their representative pairs into the Regional Final (see below). If pairs are nominated to the Regional Final, clubs should pay the entry fees. Each Club Qualifying could provide six or more pairs to the Regional Final, with each category represented where possible.

'THE HOME OF BRIDGE'

Costs

The whole competition is intended to be revenue neutral, so that **club qualifying events raise the entry fees for their pairs to the Regional Final, and each Regional Final raises the entry fees for the region's pairs to the Country Carnival Final.**

The club hosting the Regional Final should plan to raise sufficient monies to pay for the entry fee for the pairs qualifying to the Country Carnival Final, set at \$120 per pair. This cost is only slightly higher than the State Open Pairs final, and this will cover the cost of the venue hire in the country.

For a two session Regional Final qualifying 6 pairs to the CC Final, the RF will need to pay:

Entry fee to the Final:	6 x \$120	\$ 720
Refreshments	(say)	\$ 180
Directing	(say)	\$ 180
TOTAL		\$1080

With 18 pairs in the RF, this comes to about \$60 entry fee per pair. (Alternatively you could charge each pair less and require the qualifying pairs to contribute something). If you have less than 18 pairs in the RF, it is recommended that you stay within the \$60 limit, whereas if you have significantly more, you charge less.

For a two session CQE qualifying 6 pairs to the Regional final, a club needs to pay:

Entry fee to the Regional Final:	6 x \$60	\$ 360
Refreshments	(say)	\$ 120
Directing	(say)	\$ 100
TOTAL		\$ 580

With 18 pairs in the CQE, this comes to about \$32 entry fee per pair. (Alternatively you could charge each pair less and require the qualifying pairs to contribute something). **So pairs entering the Country Carnival tournament will only pay \$32, which will cover all three stages**, unless clubs charge less and require qualifiers to the next stage to pay more.

Subsidies

To start off this competition, the NSWBA has received a grant of \$10,000 from the ABF over three years, and will contribute up to twice this amount itself. These monies will be used to subsidise the competition for the first three years so that we are able to offer:

- a) For the inaugural year the finals are being held alongside the ANC, so no separate event needs to be organised. Therefore the NSWBA will **only charge \$20 per pair for entry to the Country Carnival Final**. Clubs hosting RFs should distribute the surplus as a travel subsidy to the Country Carnival finalists.
- b) **Travel subsidies to players attending the CC Final:** The NSWBA will ensure that each pair will receive a total of \$120 (Outer Metropolitan zone) and \$200 (other zones). Whatever the travel subsidy the host of the Regional Final gives each pair, the NSWBA will make it up to these amounts. When the Country Carnival Final moves to the country in future years, the travel subsidies will be reviewed.

Masterpoints

Masterpoints are awarded at level B4s. These are part of the NSWBA's red masterpoint allowance – do not use your club's B4c vouchers.

Clubs will be responsible for CQE masterpoint charges.

The NSWBA will pay the costs of masterpoints in the Regional Finals and Country Carnival Final.

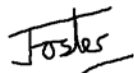
Trophy and prizes

There will be a trophy awarded to the best performing Zone. There will also be prizes in each category. Pairs coming first in their category will receive free entry into their category in the Spring Nationals (valued at \$200 as at 2013), as well as medallions. Second and third place getters will receive \$100 and \$50 respectively.

Supplementary Regulations

These can be found on the NSWBA web site at <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/index.asp>.

I wish every participating club and pair the best of luck in this new competition and look forward to welcoming as many pairs as possible to the finals.



Julian Foster
Chairman
NSWBA Council