



New South Wales Bridge Association



1st Floor, 162 Goulburn Street, East Sydney 2010 Ph: 9264 8111

E-mail: office@nswba.com.au Web: www.nswba.com.au

ABN: 61 000 438 648

State and National Championships in your Club

A quick summary and why your club should participate in them

The NSWBA conducts numerous events that are open to players in all its affiliated clubs. We would like to remind you of these events and encourage you to participate. There are a number of reasons that we commend these events to you:

1. Masterpoints

Participating in the heats of the Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) is the only way your players can earn gold masterpoints at a regular session in your club.

Participating in State Championships is the cheapest way for your club to award red masterpoints to your members. Not only are red MPs for State Championships issued at twice the rate of Club Championships, these sessions are additional to your club's B4c entitlement. Only the Country Teams and Metropolitan Teams require your club to send club representatives to the next stage of the event in order to receive red masterpoints.

2. Grants

Teams that qualify receive travel grants from the ABF to attend the National Finals of the GNOT in Tweed Heads in late November.

The NSWBA will provide travel and accommodation grants to pairs and teams representing affiliated clubs if they have to travel substantial distances to participate in finals of State events.

3. Experience and exposure

Playing in regional, zonal or state finals is fun. You meet and play against a different set of players and it improves your bridge.

The events that may be of particular interest to your club's members are:

The Grand National Open Teams

The State Open Pairs Championship and Country Pairs Championship

The State Mixed Pairs Championship and Country Mixed Pairs Championship

The State Wide Pairs

The State Under 100 Masterpoints Pairs Championships

The John Arkinstall State Teams (which includes the Country Teams Championship and the Metropolitan Teams Championship)

General information and important dates associated with each of these events can be found overleaf, and there are links from the NSWBA website at <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/index.asp> and <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2017/gnot/>. If your club has not participated in any of these events before, take a chance and make 2017 a year of change.

Yours sincerely,

Warren Lazer (Chairman, NSWBA Tournament Committee)

The Grand National Open Teams

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2017/gnot/>

Gold masterpoints awarded with weighting factor of 5.00.

Travel grants from the ABF to all teams that qualify to the National Finals.

Club heats followed by Regional Finals followed by National Finals.

List of Regional Organisers can be found at <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2017/gnot/regions.asp>

State and Metropolitan Convener: Michael Wilkinson gnot@nswba.com.au

The State Mixed Pairs Championship (incorporating the Country Mixed Pairs Championship)

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2017&E=smp>

You can play up to 4 session of this event in your club, with red masterpoints awarded with a weighting factor of 3.75. There's no longer any requirement to send club representatives to the Finals in Sydney in order to receive the red masterpoints.

Qualifying rounds to be completed before Friday 19th May 2017.

There are travel & accommodation grants for representatives of country clubs attending the Finals at the NSWBA on 27th & 28th May, 2017.

Tournament Organiser: Wing Roberts office@nswba.com.au

The State Open Pairs Championship (incorporating the Country Pairs Championship)

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2017&E=sop>

You can play up to 4 session of this event in your club, with red masterpoints awarded with a weighting factor of 5.0. There's no longer any requirement to send club representatives to the Finals in Sydney in order to receive the red masterpoints.

Qualifying rounds to be completed before Friday 10th November, 2017.

There are travel & accommodation grants for representatives of country clubs attending the Finals at the NSWBA on 18th & 19th November, 2017

Tournament Organiser: Wing Roberts office@nswba.com.au

The State Wide Pairs

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2017&E=swp>

This event is now a single session event played during the week of July 31st - August 6th.

All pairs play the same hands and the results are scored across the state and the hand records include a short analysis of each deal.

Red masterpoints (paid by the NSWBA) are awarded at level B4s and there are generous prizes including cash, Bridge Shop Gift vouchers and certificates.

Organiser: Warren Lazer swp@nswba.com.au

The Under 100 Masterpoints Pairs Championships

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2017&E=uhmp>

Red masterpoints awarded at level B4s (paid by the NSWBA).

Restricted to those players with fewer than 100 masterpoints.

Club sessions are held in your club during September and or October.

Finals are held at multiple venues around the state on 26th November.

Short travel times and no accommodation costs associated with Finals.

Prizes (cash, subscriptions to the Novice Australian Bridge magazine and certificates) are awarded separately in each masterpoint division.

Organiser: Warren Lazer uhmp@nswba.com.au

The John Arkinstall State Teams Championship

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2017&E=sot>

Affiliated clubs qualify five teams to the Finals, three teams via the Country Teams Championship and two teams via the Metropolitan Teams Championship.

The Finals are held at the NSWBA on 8-10 December 2017.

Red masterpoints at Level B with a weighting factor of 5.0 are awarded. Sessional awards for the State Finals are increased by 50%.

The Metropolitan Teams Championship - part of the John Arkinstall State Teams Championship

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2017&E=sotmetro>

Red masterpoints awarded with weighting factor of 5.0. There is a requirement that you must send at least one club representative team to the Metropolitan Final in order to receive red masterpoints. The Metropolitan Final is incorporated into the NSWBA Spring Teams Congress on 17th September. Teams entering at the club level and progressing to the Metropolitan Final pay just \$60. Teams entering the Metropolitan Final directly pay \$140.

Two teams progress from the Metropolitan Final to the State Final at the NSWBA. At least one of these teams will have qualified via a Club heat.

Tournament Organiser: Michael Wilkinson sotmetro@nswba.com.au

The Country Teams Championship - part of the John Arkinstall State Teams Championship

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2017&E=sotct>

One team from each of the zones (*viz.* Northern, Southern & Western, Outer Metropolitan) qualifies to the State Final at the NSWBA.

Teams enter at the club level and progress to Regional and Zonal Finals. Augmentation rules have been relaxed considerably compared to previous years, making it much easier for clubs to find teams willing to progress to the Regional and Zonal Finals. There is still a requirement that you must send 20% of the field to the Regional Final in order to receive red masterpoints.

Masterpoints are awarded with a weighting factor of 5.0 for club heats and Regional Finals.

Zonal Finals attract both outright awards (W=5.0) and sessional awards (W=7.5).

There are travel & accommodation grants for teams attending the State Finals.

Tournament Organiser: Helen Milward helenmilward@internode.on.net

A summary of the significant dates for the 2017 Country Teams Championship follows.

Friday 3rd February: Deadline for applications from clubs to host Regional Final.

Friday 3rd February: Deadline for applications from clubs to host Zonal Final.

Saturday 3rd June: Deadline for completion of Club Qualifying events.

Sunday 25th June: Deadline for completion of Regional Finals.

Tuesday 27th June: Deadline for entries to the Zonal Finals.

Sat 1st & Sun 2nd July: Default date for Zonal Finals.

Fri 8th & Sat 9th December: Qualification rounds of John Arkinstall State Teams Finals at the NSWBA.

Sun 10th December: Final of the NSWBA Country Teams Championship.

Sun 10th December: Final of the John Arkinstall State Teams Championship.

Other Congress style events - players enter directly

State Individual Championship at NSWBA

State Novice and Restricted Pairs Championships, April 29 & 30, Southern Highlands Bridge Club

State Novice and Restricted Teams Championships, November 4 & 5, Illawarra Bridge Association

State Veteran Pairs Championship, 28-30 July, Bowral Bridge Club