2026 Grand National Open Teams
Sydney Metro Region

The ABF has made a number of changes to the 2026 GNOT. The full details are on the ABF's website https://abfevents.com.au/events/gnot/2026/index.asp, and you will find a summary of the changes in this letter.

The first change is that the number of teams progressing from the National Qualifying Stage to the National F2F Final has gone from 4 to 8 Metro teams, and from 8 to 12 Country teams. The National Qualifying Stage takes place on RealBridge from 18-20 September, over 2.5 days instead of 3, and the National F2F Final will be held in Brisbane (instead of Sydney) from 27-29 November.

The second change is an increase in the fees the ABF charges to Bridge NSW and other State bodies. The "per table" levy for Club Qualifying Events (CQEs) and Direct Qualifying Events (DQEs) will increase from $10 to $14. The charge for teams progressing from Regional and Metro Finals to the National Qualifying Stage will increase from $300 to $400. As a result, Bridge NSW will also increase its charges to clubs. The "per table" levy in Sydney Metro qualifying events will go from $15 to $20 and the charge for teams progressing to the Sydney Metro Final will increase from $200 to $220. Fees for direct entry into the Sydney Metro Final will go from $260 to $280. We understand that these increases may lead to hesitations about participating in the GNOT, but please have a look at the "Financial information" at the end of this letter to see that if you allocate 3 or 4 sessions to the CQE, the premium to charge to players to cover the additional cost, which will earn them Gold masterpoints and the chance to participate in subsequent stages of the GNOT, can be quite modest, with similarly modest additional cost to the clubs. Please reach out to **metrognot@bridgensw.com.au** if you would like to discuss in more detail.

The third change is the addition of GNOT Plate event, an open entry event which will run F2F, along with the F2F National Final in Brisbane.

The Sydney Metropolitan GNOT Final will be held F2F on 22-23 August at the Sydney Bridge Centre. André Korenhof will be the Metropolitan Organiser (MO).

The MO will be checking MP awards from the CQEs and DQEs, then collating and forwarding the relevant information to the State Masterpoint Secretary after the Metropolitan Final. See below for all information required to be sent to the MO, and once complete please send to **metrognot@bridgensw.com.au**. No

information is to be sent directly to the ABF Masterpoint Centre or State Masterpoint Secretary.

Club GNOT events may be played F2F or online on RealBridge or Stepbridge (see regulations for details). Events run on BBO are not allowed.

The GNOT is the only opportunity for players to earn Gold masterpoints at club level, so we encourage all clubs to support this event.

To ensure your club qualifier(s) will be processed correctly, please send the following information to metrognot@bridgensw.com.au:

1. The completed Club Heat CQE Form spreadsheet or Club Heat DQE Form spreadsheet available from the Metropolitan GNOT webpage (https://bridgensw.com.au/gnot-metropolitan-2/). Instructions on how to complete these forms are available in the spreadsheet.
2. A complete copy of the results for each session as pdf, text, html, Word or Excel file. For a teams event, this must include a list of all teams and their members and the number of matches won, drawn and lost. For a pairs event, the final score and placing of each pair.
3. Masterpoint information as a .gld file.

Details can be found in the regulations, which are also available on the Metropolitan GNOT webpage.

Should you require further details please contact André Korenhof, preferably by e-mail, at metrognot@bridgensw.com.au, or if really urgent at 0404 126 077 (leave a voice message if no answer).

An overview of the GNOT, how it is conducted in NSW, and guidance on what premium should be charged to your players follows on the subsequent pages.

Frank Hardiman
Chairman, Bridge NSW Events Committee

Grand National Open Teams (GNOT)

Overview of the GNOT

The Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) 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 (a total of 64 teams in 2026).
- Clubs hold heats to qualify teams to a final within their region.
- Each Regional/Metro Final qualifies 1 or more teams to the National Final.
- The National Final will be played in two stages:
    1. A knock-out with Swiss repechage in September played online on RealBridge platform,
    2. Face-to-face Finals involving 8 open teams and 12 non-metropolitan teams later in the year.
- The ABF provides travel grants to eligible teams that qualify for the face-to-face Finals.

GNOT in NSW

The ABF has appointed Bridge NSW as the Organising Body for all GNOT regions in NSW. The ABF has stipulated that Bridge NSW 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.

Bridge NSW 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.

The remainder of this document is specific to the Sydney Metropolitan region.

Further Detail

Following detailed sections describe:

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

Please review these as they contain important information about running the GNOT at 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; or
- IMP pairs events (Butler or cross IMPs) with teams then formed from eligible pairs.

Regular club matchpoint duplicate sessions are not acceptable as qualifying events 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 advertising their GNOT heats and charge the players participating in them a premium to show they are special (they carry Gold masterpoints and qualify teams to Regional / Metro finals) 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 a 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 (or pay for) at least one seventh of its CQE field to the Metropolitan Final in order to award Gold masterpoints. See the CQE supplementary regulations on the Metropolitan GNOT webpage (https://bridgensw.com.au/gnot-metropolitan-2/) for details.

Nominating teams to the Metropolitan Final

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

Direct entry of teams to the Metropolitan Final

Bridge NSW 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. Bridge NSW will therefore accept entries directly into the Metropolitan Final. The cost for direct entry will be $280 per team and all members of a team entering directly must have played in a CQE in the same year within the Sydney metropolitan region.

Metropolitan Final

The Metropolitan Final will qualify five teams to the GNOT National Final. The Metropolitan Final is typically a single 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 Sydney Bridge Centre on a weekend in late August or early September. In 2026 it is being played on 22 and 23 August.

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 North Shore Bridge Club (Thursday nights, online on RealBridge) and the Sydney Bridge Centre (face-to-face on a weekend) DQEs each qualify 1 team directly to the National Qualifying Stage. 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. So, 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. CQEs may be held F2F or as online events on RealBridge or Stepbridge. Clubs will be invoiced by the ABF Masterpoint unit for their Masterpoint costs. Do not pay anything until you receive the invoice.

In the Metropolitan Final, these awards increase to 0.06 masterpoints per board, so 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. Bridge NSW will pay for the Masterpoints awarded at the Metropolitan Final.

Financial Information

ABF charges

The ABF makes two charges for the GNOT:

- $400 per team entered to the National Final
- $14 per table that enters the event at a qualifying level

Bridge NSW 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

Bridge NSW 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.	$20 per table	This covers the $14 per table levy from the ABF which Bridge NSW collects and passes on. The $6 extra premium helps to cover the costs Bridge NSW incurs for the subsequent stages.
Each team qualifying from CQEs or nominated by clubs entering the Metropolitan Final.	$220 This fee includes lunch for the team on both days.	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 $110 from the club and $110 from the players). However the money is raised, Bridge NSW will invoice the club for the full amount.

Clubs should note that they will need to charge a premium on normal table money for GNOT heats in order to raise sufficient monies for these fees. Clubs will be invoiced by Bridge NSW for team entry fees, and by the ABF for the masterpoints awarded in their qualifying heats. Bridge NSW will then pay for all expenses incurred in the Sydney Metropolitan final and for progressing teams to the National Qualifying Stage.

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 following table 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	3	4
Teams qualifying to Metro Final	**R**	1	2	3
Funds required				
Metropolitan Final entry fee (assume club pays $110 per team and players pay $110)	**R x $110**	$110	$220	$330
$20 per table charge	**T x $20**	$140	$240	$360
Total required funds	**F**	**$250**	**$460**	**$690**
Total player sessions	**P = 4 x T x S**	4 x 7 x 2 = 56	4 x 12 x 3 = 144	4 x 18 x 4 = 288
Premium per player per session needed to raise these funds *(Recommend round up to help fund Gold masterpoints.)*	**F / P**	250/56 = $4.46 (Say $4.50)	460/144 = $3.19 (Say $3.50)	690/288 = $2.39 (Say $2.50)
Funds raised		**56 x $4.50 = $252**	**144 x $3.50 = $504**	**288 x $2.50 = $720**

Further details

The Supplementary Tournament Regulations, that are to be read in association with the Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations, are available on the Bridge NSW web site https://bridgensw.com.au/gnot-metropolitan-2/. Please read the regulations carefully, as they explain the conditions that need to be fulfilled for Gold masterpoints to be awarded.

Appendix A: Clubs in the Sydney Metropolitan GNOT Region

Metropolitan Organiser: metrognot@bridgensw.com.au

ARV Bridge Club	Long Reef Bridge Club
Bayview Bridge Club	Macarthur Collegians Bridge Club
Bridge Away	Manly Golf Club Bridge Group
Bridge with Beauchamp	Manly Leagues Bridge Club
Bridgefolk	Mosman Park Bridge Club
Carlingford Bridge Club	Narrabeen Bridge Club
Castle Hill Bridge Club	North Shore Bridge Club
Cheltenham Bridge Club	North Sydney Leagues Bridge Club
Cromer Bridge Club	NSBC@Lindfield
Double Bay Bridge Centre	Parramatta Bridge Club
Easts Bridge Club	Peninsula Bridge Club
Elanora Country Club	Pennant Hills Bridge Club
Eventz in Paradise	Port Hacking Bridge Club
Finesse Bridge Club	Randwick Bridge Club
Forestville RSL Bridge Club	Reef Bridge Club
Funbridge Australia	RMYC Newport Bridge Club
Georges River Bridge Club	Royal Sydney Golf Club
Harbord Diggers Bridge Club	Seaforth Bridge Club
Harbourview Bridge Club	Social Bridge Ryde
Helane K Tours	Strathfield Bridge Club
Holiday Bridge	Sydney Bridge Club
Hunters Hill Bridge Club	The St George Bridge Club
Hurstville Bridge Club	Thornleigh Bridge Club
Ingleburn RSL Bridge Club	Trumps Bridge Centre
Killara Bridge Club	Turramurra Bridge Club
Killara Golf Club Ltd Bridge Club	Wollstonecraft Bridge Club