

## Newsletter – New Years Edition February 2024



Happy belated new year to everyone. The festive season passed us by in a flash and is now a distant memory. It is already February and with that we see the Club GNOT qualifications underway starting with a good turnout at QCBC Wednesday night; 31<sup>st</sup> January. In this Newsletter you will find information on the Brisbane Zone GNOT for 2024 including recent changes to the format in 2024.

### Format Changes to the 2024 Grand National Open Teams (“GNOT”):

The ABF is changing the format of the GNOT in 2024. There will now be three phases to the event rather than two as in recent years.

#### PHASE ONE – CLUB & REGIONAL QUALIFICATION EVENTS

**The first phase is not changing.** During the first phase there will be club and regional qualification events as has been the case in the past. As per last year, there is a \$10 charge per team payable to the ABF for these qualification events.

#### PHASE TWO – 64 TEAM KNOCKOUT EVENT

**Phase two will be run online (on RealBridge) over a 3-day weekend; Friday September 20<sup>th</sup> through to Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup>** with a target of **64 teams** rather than 60. Players who are not familiar with RealBridge will be offered some training.

The **format** of this event will be similar to last year’s face-to-face finals and as previously, the event will run as a *Knockout* with the losing teams moving into a *Swiss Repechage* (“Swiss”).

The *Knockout* event will be FOUR stanzas per day with each stanza comprising 12 boards. Each Knockout match will be over two stanzas. Each match in the *Swiss* will be 12 boards.

The TWO teams that have **not** been knocked out at the conclusion of the FIFTH round will not be required to play the last two stanzas, as they will progress to the phase 3 Knockout event (see below).

The TWO teams that were knocked out in the FIFTH round will join the Swiss.

At the conclusion of the Swiss,

1. The top TWO placed teams will progress to the phase 3 Knockout event (see below).
2. The next EIGHT highest placed non-metropolitan teams will progress to the phase 3 Round Robin event (see below).

To accommodate all time zones the first match will commence at 11AM AEST and the fourth stanza should finish by 5:35PM AEST.

*Teams may comprise 4, 5 or 6 players.*

**The entry fee per team will be \$300.**

#### PHASE THREE – FACE TO FACE FINALS

Phase three will be held in Sydney (venue to be confirmed) on *Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup>* and will comprise two separate events; being a 4 team *Knockout* event and an 8 team *non-metropolitan Round Robin* final.

The 4-team *Knockout* event will be contested by the two teams that remained undefeated in phase two after five rounds **and** the top two teams from the phase two Swiss Repechage.

The Knockout final will comprise FOUR by 14 board stanzas on Saturday. The two winners will continue to play FOUR by 14 board stanzas on Sunday.

The two losers will playoff for third place via THREE by 14 board stanzas on the Sunday.

The 8 team *non-metropolitan final* will be contested by the 8 highest placed non-metropolitan teams from phase two that did not qualify for the 4-team Knockout final.

The non-metropolitan final will be a Round Robin event of SEVEN by 14 board matches.

Play in all aspects of phase 3 will conclude at the same time. Accordingly, the winners of the Knockout on Saturday will start earlier than the other teams on Sunday. **All** participants will be expected to remain at the venue for the closing ceremony and presentation of medals.

Non-Sydney based participants in the face-to-face finals will receive a travel subsidy the amount of which will be determined by the ABF based on where they are travelling from.

The venue in Sydney and the timing of all matches will be advised prior to phase two.

***There will be no additional entry fee for the face-to-face finals.***

This revised format enables the ABF to reduce the entry fees for phase two from the previous \$750 per team to \$300 per team whilst still providing the opportunity for many more players across Australia to earn Gold points without having to travel.

## **BZ GNOT Club Qualifying Dates:**

Below are the dates for BZ Club's GNOT Qualifying heats in 2024:

January 01	QCBC	Wednesday pm	31 January & 7 February
March 01	TOOWONG	Friday am	1 & 8 March
March 07	REDCLIFFE	Thursday	7, 14 & 21 March
March 08	ARANA	Friday	8, 15, 22 March
March 09	NSBC	Weekend	9 & 10 March
April 28	QCBC	Sunday	28 April
May 04	KENMORE	Saturday	4 May
May 18	SUNNYBANK	Saturday	18 May
May 29	TOOWONG	Wednesday pm	29 May & 5 June
June 14	REDLANDS	Friday	14, 21 & 28 June
June 21	BBC	Friday	21 & 28 June
July 13	KENMORE	Saturday	13 July

August 24 & 25 GNOT Brisbane Zone Final - Hosted by QCBC



A couple of reminders re the GNOT CLUB Qualifying Events

1. It is the club's responsibility to check that teams meet any additional club restrictions before accepting their entry. It is generally too late after the completion of an event to find out that a team did not meet the club's entry restrictions.
2. The Director of club qualifying heats **MUST** provide a report on those heats stating:
  - a) full names and ABF numbers of all members in every team, including substitute players identified.
  - b) their win-draw-loss records,
  - c) the movement used, the number of matches, and the number of boards played per match,
  - d) the teams qualifying for the zone final,
  - e) any players and/or teams declining a position in the zone final.

Good luck to all the teams.

Jacqui Dudurovic

Brisbane Zone Secretary