

Dear District14 club managers

March 28, 2010

We are coming into the home stretch of the 2009-2010 GNT qualifying cycle and are now less than 2 months from the District finals, which are being held again at the New Brighton Family Center just north of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Last year 35 teams competed in the District finals, a big jump from the 10 teams that played in Fort Dodge in 2008. Last year's winning teams received nearly \$1500 to attend the Summer Nationals. This year's winners will get to attend the NABC in New Orleans.

There is still plenty of time to schedule GNT club qualifiers and encourage your players who like tournament bridge to make plans to attend the district finals. One of the great things about the grassroots nature of the GNTs is that you are competing against your peers at the District finals.

Recent experience has proven that any team can win the trip. Last year the Flight A favorites didn't make it past the semifinal KO. The winning Flight B squad from 2008 didn't reach the semifinals on the second day. It just takes 2 days of solid play against players who are roughly your own caliber to set yourself up for a great experience.

The Minnesota Bridge blog and the District14 website (under the GNT tab) <http://bridgedistrict14.com/gnt.html> have a lot of information:

One of the significant changes in the conditions of contest for Flights B & C is that you can qualify for the final day just by being in the top half of the field on Saturday, rather than having to be one of the top four to reach a semifinal knockout on Sunday morning. On Sunday, round robin play will determine the flight winners in the B & C flights.

2009 Flight C team winner Judy Hansen wrote:  
[http://moot.typepad.com/minnesota\\_bridge/2010/02/have-a-blast.html#more](http://moot.typepad.com/minnesota_bridge/2010/02/have-a-blast.html#more)

2009 Flight B team winner Peter Litchfield didn't do much in the GNTs last summer in Washington D.C., but he and his partner, Paul Gutterman won the 3 day, 6 session, 0-1500 mp Sally Young pair event: <http://moot.typepad.com/files/peterlitchfield-1.pdf>

I'm hoping this year's District finals will be even better than last year's. We have also arranged, if you don't reach the finals, to have a separate one day, 2 session Swiss team event that carries a full sectional rating. Hospitality will be great as Units 103 and 178 will be supporting Sunday participants with free coffee, fruit, and pastries. The stratification on Sunday will be based on team average masterpoint holdings, not the level of the highest member of the team. The local Days Inn has given us a rate of \$59/night if you reserve by May 1. So, your club players have a lot of incentive to come up this year.

Tony Ames will be the DIC at this year's finals. He is also willing to help you with team formation: 952.200.3871 [yotsema@aol.com](mailto:yotsema@aol.com).

Please consider printing this letter and posting it in your club.

I will be asking the ACBL to send me a report of the club qualifying games that have been held through the end of April. You don't have to send me the District14 table fees from qualifiers until you have completed the qualifying 'season'. Consider having a last chance club qualifier just before the District finals. I will need an email from you of 'late qualifiers' who intend to come to the District finals.

Let me know if you have any questions about the GNTs.

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