

GNTs are looking for a boost
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2010-11 GNTs: Recap, Review, Resolve

The District 14 GNT finals in Clive Iowa are over and the numbers are in. Although this year's team subsidy will not be as substantial, this past year has had some very notable gains

1. Last year's Flight B district champs became National Champs:
http://moot.typepad.com/minnesota_bridge/2010/07/national-champions.html
2. Two Minnesota Championship teams (Flight A and Flight C) who played in our Unit final will receive an additional \$220/team based on the recently approved motion by the District Board to segregate the table fees from Unit finals to be distributed the district champions who played in their unit final.
3. 23 Minnesotans who played in our Unit final and also played in Iowa will each receive \$22 from that event's profit to offset travel costs.
4. With just a week before the finals there was a chance of fielding an Open Flight size of 5 teams! Three teams did compete, one better than last year.
5. Although receipts from the District final weekend were down \$2250 from last year we were able to cut the expenses of the event by over \$1700 which included significant amounts of donations and waived fees:

Very nice hospitality and a beautiful playing site, Unit 216 picked up the supplies fees, Unit 178 donated it's duplimate fee, and Mike's Flader & Cassel preduplicated 12 sets of boards at no charge to the event.

6. The first GNT Fund Raiser game in the district was held in April at the Twin City Bridge Center with Steve Gaynor directing. Each GNT Fund Raiser game table contributes \$4 to help fund the trip to the summer nationals:
<http://bridgedistrict14.com/d14ie.html>
GNT tab: "The Case for GNT Fund Raiser..."

The event was not without some challenges:

1. 88 players participated on 23 teams in the GNT finals this year. There 31 teams & 131 entered the competition last year. Minnesotans were a part of 9 of the 23 teams. Total

weekend play was 79 tables versus 118 last year. We expected a better turnout.

2. Two Minnesota teams traveled a long way to play in Flight A against each other for a 50% award in a one day competition. A very disappointing turnout.
3. Getting traction for the sectionally-rated Sunday Swiss has been an failure in the last 3 years: 8, 10 and 4.5 teams. A great deal of effort was expended to secure the increased award with little to show for it. It makes the most sense to hold the GNT finals in conjunction with a sectional, with the understanding that the host unit is responsible for providing \$3,000 to the GNT fund.

Each Minnesota Unit donated \$180 last year so that the District final could achieve the \$3,000 goal, but the site hosts this year were unable to do the same.

Freeing up the first weekend in May for a GNT sectional is a vexing issue with the board as three units have held spring sectionals that weekend.

4. Participation by Nebraskans has been non-existent recently. I remember the days when you had to qualify in a Unit Final to be allowed to play at the District final. You had to compete in a 2 session Swiss and be in the top 8 to reach the quarterfinal knockouts. We will never get back to those team numbers, but we certainly can strategize about how to promote the idea that district-wide peer play, is rewarding in it's own right, whether or not you have designs on winning a trip to the Summer NABC.

Two districts held GNT finals play online this year and I will continue to assess the potential for doing the same in our district. Anyone who is excited by this idea is welcome to pick up the ball and try to run with it. I do not want to do away with face-to-face competition, but it may be possible to augment onsite table count with internet play.

5. In the two previous years we had large revenue streams from the \$11 surcharge from players who did not play in a Unit final. This year only 31 players paid the surcharge compared to 85 last year. It will be interesting to see how the numbers work out next year in the Twin Cities.

In summation

1. I continue to believe we can attain a GNT cycle income of \$8,000 which will **subsidize each team at least \$2,000 or \$500/player** (4 person team). The ACBL does not subsidize the GNTs. We should find a way to fund GNT team entry fees at the Nationals (\$160Cdn/day this year) and it can't come from the current revenue streams
2. It's time to increase the club qualifying table fees to \$6/table from \$5.
3. Increasing the field size in any flight to 5 teams is necessary to pay a 2nd place team any masterpoints, and this is a continuing challenge.

Please email me if you have feedback. Let me know how I can help make GNTs even more fun, fair, and the kind of event you want to play in.

This year's cycle success was due the concerted efforts of many people:

Gregg Walsh, Dee and Nancy Wilson

Continued to support the GNT cycle with nearly 175 table of club qualifying play and a 16 table unit final. Dee was the tournament chair for the district final.

Bill Kent

Put a ton of miles on his car to hold 24 GNT qualifying games and 130 tables of play in 9 clubs in unit 163.

Tony Ames

Ran 12 club qualifying games with 100 tables in Plymouth and was instrumental in scheduling more GNT qualifying events by the Minneapolis Grand Slam Club and the Minnesota Bridge Association (Officer's Club BAM team games).

Gregg Van Dyke & Teri Blu

Directed & hosted the Unit Final in Minnesota at a very reasonable fee.

Mike Flader

Worked with the GNT coordinator on contest conditions, and singlehandedly directed the district final weekend. Donated his time working with me and the duplimate machine so that participants could start play and have hand records.