

GNTs are heading..... onward and upward
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2009-10 GNTs: Recap, Review, Resolve

The District 14 GNT finals have just concluded this past weekend, a repeat performance in New Brighton, MN.

1. 131 players participated on 31 teams in the GNT finals. Gross receipts including donations for hospitality from Units 102 and 178 and miscellaneous coffee/pop sales totaled \$6700. Event profits would have easily exceeded \$3000 but for the decision to provide players in **all sessions of all flights with preduplicated boards & hand records.**
2. Three members of the winning Flight C team became Life Masters: Normandy Hamilton, Alan Yngve, and Larry McIntyre. Lots of smiles!!
3. The full **Round Robin Final** in flights B & C on Sunday using a board-a-match movement was well-received, and Sunday's competition, 29 teams in 5 separate sections with different movements went smoothly without a hitch.
4. Eight participants completed multiple GNT Final wins:
http://moot.typepad.com/minnesota_bridge/2010/05/gnt-2010-winners.html#more
5. Minnesota players who competed in this year's joint Unit Final and won their flight in March earned free entries at the District Finals totaling \$479. 45 Minnesotans avoided the \$11 surcharge by playing in the Unit Final.
6. Dee Dee Lorentzen made 3 pans of egg casserole for Sunday's breakfast that were very well received and Unit's 103/178 gifts to the event: free coffee, cinnamon toast, fresh fruit and juice, and donuts were appreciated.
7. We exceeded my goal for the year of providing a subsidy of \$1,600/team.
8. We had a SUPER superflight team that beat the top seed last summer in Washington D.C.

The event was not without some challenges:

1. A field of exactly 16 teams in Flight B led to a decision to bracket the field in 2 8-team seeded brackets, 7 matches of 8 boards (was supposed to be 7 boards) in a full round robin. Bracket seeding delayed the start of the event for Flight B over 1/2hr. and forced the afternoon session to include only 3 matches which led again to a very long evening.

2. Although there was ample publicity regarding the sectionally rated Swiss team on Sunday, the event had only 10 teams. We were hoping for 15. Temporal proximity to next week's Gopher Regional may have played a role in the less than robust turnout, a situation that will not happen in 2012 when the event returns to Minnesota (District finals at the end of April).
3. The facility's capacity to keep us cool on Sunday morning was exceeded even though the thermostat was set at 62. Holding the event the last weekend in April might help here as well.
4. The Flight C field dropped from 12 to 6 this year at the district finals. We can do better to help our newer players understand the allure of this unique grass roots national event. The top seeded team in the Flight C field this year did not even survive to the final day. It's a competition that any team can win if they play well enough to reach the final day, and put two decent sessions together against their peers in the round robin Sunday final.

I have just finished my first year as the District 14 GNT coordinator. Here are my next goals:

1. I 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.- Unlike the North American Pairs, the ACBL does not subsidize the GNTs. The GNTs may be a dying event in the long term nationally, but I want to breathe life into the subsidy for our winning district representatives to the Summer Nationals, enough to cover airfare and a couple of hotel nights.
2. It has been impossible to increase the field size in the Championship flight to 5 teams, which is necessary to pay a 2nd place team any masterpoints. As well, nearly everyone in the Championship flight competition has been from Minnesota. Why should we travel long distances every other year to play each other, and pay for travel and hotel. A proposal will be made at the District Board meeting in 10 days to move the date and venue for the GNT finals in the Championship flight to coincide with the second 4-session KO at the Gopher Regional. As much merit as the idea has, it will only work if it entices some of our district's best players to come to the Twin Cities to compete....and stay to play on the weekend.
<http://bridgedistrict14.com/d14ie.html>

3. A second proposal, one intended to foster increased scheduling of, and participation in **Unit finals** will suggest that the \$6/table/session fees from Unit Finals be reserved to augment the subsidy only for District Flight winners who played in a Unit Final.

District 14 covers a lot of territory in nine units and Unit profits from Unit Finals can be used to subsidize outstate travel or local free plays for Flight winners as Minnesota did this year.

Please email me if you have feedback about this year's event. 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 would not have been as successful as it was without the concerted efforts of many people:

Gregg Walsh, Dee and Nancy Wilson

Not only did they quadruple the table count in club qualifying events, but they conducted a 22 table Unit final

Tony Ames

Ran 12 club qualifying games with over 100 tables. Assisted in team formation at the District finals. Served as the DIC for the District finals,

Tony Ames, Jr.

pre-duplicated many sets of boards late into the evening on Saturday and caddied the entire Flight B & C event on Saturday.

Peg Kaplan

took the dense GNT flyer into Microsoft Office Publisher and produced cleaner looking publicity material. Diligently posted announcements regarding the event on the blog.

Judy Nassar

Copied flyers for both the GNT final and the Sunday Swiss at the GNT final. Helped structure the event with a full sectional rating.

Dee Dee Lorentzen

Provided baked goods and breakfast casserole at the Unit and GNT District Finals.

Minneapolis Grand Slam Club – Dave Neiman

Loaned their coffee supplies and equipment and prepared coffee for the weekend's players

Pete Solberg & the Bridge Club of St. Paul

Provided the GNT fundraising sanctions to lift the Swiss event on Sunday from a consolation rating to a full sectional rating.

Gus Doty

Who brought the tables and bidding boxes for the finals in exchange for nominal free entries.

John Allen

Unit 103 GNT coordinator

Units 103 & 178

who each donated \$100 so that Sunday's hospitality could be many notches above ordinary, and

The many district players who supported the event by playing in their clubs, unit finals, and the 131 who came to compete for the trip to New Orleans this past weekend.

It was a very good year.