



Dear Buddy

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GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS (GNT's)

Last issue, I shared information on the North American Pairs (NAP), which began play at the local club level. The qualifying games at the District Level held last month determined the players who will represent our District at the RENO NABC in March to compete against the winners from other Districts.

There is a similar competition for teams, called the Grand National Teams (GNT's). This competition is a major ACBL team championship. Winners at the District level then compete with winners from other Districts at the Summer NABC, which will be held in Providence, Rhode Island, in 2022.

As background, The Grand National Team-of-Four Championships were first held from 1934-1937 by the United States Bridge Association (before the merger created the ACBL). This grass roots tournament was re-established in 1973, with the initial contests held within the ACBL defined Districts. During this time, there was a semifinal stage with Zone championships for the Districts to determine which teams would compete at the North American Bridge Championships (NABC's).

In 1985, the Zone stage was eliminated, and each District held qualifying games to determine their team(s) to represent them at the Summer NABC. In the same year, the GNT's were divided into three Flights – A, B, and C. In 2001, the top Flight was renamed the Championship Flight, with 3 lower Flights, A, B, and C. With the change in 2001, Flight A was restricted to players with fewer than 5,000 masterpoints. In 2012, the limits were established as 2,000 for Flight B and 500 for Flight C for players who are nonlife masters. In 2014, Flight A was increased to 6,000 masterpoints and Flight B was raised to its current limit of 2,500.

The members of the team winning in the Open category have their names engraved on the Morehead Trophy, which was contributed by the New York Times in memory of its longtime bridge editor, Albert Morehead.

Our District 21 has a good track record with the GNT's, most recently winning Flight C in 2019, and the Open, Flights B and C in 2017.

District 21 is holding its district qualifying games in the winter and spring **2022**. You and your partner should find a favorite pair and play in this exciting event. Below are the dates and location for each flight.

- Open Championship Flight – January 29-30 (East Bay Community Bridge Center/Oakland) and February 12-13 (Palo Alto Bridge Center)
- Flight A – May 7-8 (East Bay Community Bridge Center/Oakland) and 14-15 (Palo Alto Bridge Center)
- Flight B – February 12-13 (Palo Alto Bridge Center)
- Flight C – May 14-15 (Palo Alto Bridge Center)

Click [here](https://d21acbl.org/gnt/) for the Schedule of Flights and Conditions of Contest <https://d21acbl.org/gnt/> (District 21 website under Tournaments/GNT's).



D I A M O N D I N T H E R U F F

You ***MUST PRE-REGISTER*** to play. Signups are being taken on Bridgewinners:

<https://bridgewinners.com/tournament/view/2022-d21-gnt/>

If you have specific questions, please contact our District 21 GNT Coordinator, Grant Vance, at (510) 915-1799 or grantvance1@gmail.com.

We would like our GNT's 2022 teams to be big winners in Providence!!