

2006 Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship

The 2006 CNBC will be held on similar lines to the inaugural competition held in 2002 in Manchester. There were 28 teams in Manchester.

This event will be held at the Victorian Bridge Association (VBA) premises in Melbourne. To date 14 countries have shown their wish to attend. Adding to this 8 states in Australia, plus Australia and New Zealand., as well as 1 invited sponsor and 2 local sponsors, a total of 30 entrants are expected. This will be scheduled from Tuesday 7th March to Sunday 12th of March. The Commonwealth Games begin on Wednesday 15th March, and Monday 13th March is a public holiday in Victoria.

Positive replies:

To date the following countries have responded in the affirmative:

Antigua*, Bangladesh, Barbados*, Bermuda*, Canada*, England*, Guernsey*, Malaysia*, Malta*, New Zealand, Pakistan*, Singapore*, Sri Lanka*, Uganda*, Wales*. (* indicates presence in Manchester). This event is already shown on

<http://www.ecatsbridge.com/events/zone7/cnbc/default.asp>

Play Schedule

Qualifying matches to the semi-finals will be held from Tuesday morning to Friday afternoon without evening matches. The actual format will be decided on the final numbers known.

The semifinals will be held on Friday evening and Saturday morning.

The finals will be held on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Suggested 48 board semifinals and 64 board finals. All the finals will be on web.

A maximum of 3 special sponsor teams will be allowed, one international and two Australian teams. The gold, silver and bronze medals may only be won by country or state representatives, and not the sponsored teams, though they may win the championship.

A provision in the rules will be set to limit the number of sponsors into the finals and at least one non-Australian team. The sponsored teams, if two are in the finals, will have to play each other in the semi finals to eliminate the chance on the final being played by the two sponsors.

Paul Hackett has accepted the invitation to organize the overseas team. Barry Noble has generously offered to sponsor the event and will captain an Australian Sponsor Team.

Parallel, a Swiss pairs of 60 tables will be run with the non-qualifying finalists expected to play plus all pairs wishing to encounter the international teams. If some of the non-qualifying teams are 6 person teams some consideration of asking only four to enter will be considered. This will depend on the number of local teams entering and the management of the numbers over all. Therefore about 80 individual pairs are expected to enter. This will not have a final but a four or five session event, depending on numbers. The entry fees will be \$200 per person.

Social functions (hospitality) scheduled:.

A Start Up Cocktail party on Monday 6th March.

A mid tournament Dinner on Thursday 9th March (TBC and will require a sponsor to be held)

A Ceremonial Dinner on Sunday 12th March. (The Barry Noble dinner).

The Hon. Mr. J. Thwaites (The Deputy Premier of Victoria) has accepted the role of Patron and will be available at the Start up Cocktail party.

Medallions:

Each entrant of the Championship will be given a medallion (50 - 60 mm) designed by Michael Meszaros, a world recognized sculptor. A mounted and laminated copy for the Gold, Silver and Bronze will be given to the winners, extra medallion to each prize winning team. A larger copy of the trophy will be given to the Championship winning team. This special work of art is with the support of the Pratt family and Visy Industries.

States have been offered a chance to send a team. **It is important that the States accept this offer as it will not only support Australia for this type of event, but will provide international championship experience to more bridge players.**