



# GNOT UPDATE

To Country Clubs

## GNOT 2020 Update

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19

Firstly, Michael Wilkinson has resigned as Regional GNOT coordinator. My thanks to him for his efforts over the years. This doesn't really present a problem in 2020 as there's no longer an event to coordinate, which brings me to.....

Secondly, the ABF has just announced the cancellation of the GNOT for 2020 [www.abf.com.au/event/2020-grand-national-open-teams-finals/](http://www.abf.com.au/event/2020-grand-national-open-teams-finals/) and [www.nswba.com.au/](http://www.nswba.com.au/). With all states having different rules regarding social distancing, travel and border closures and the situation in November being an unknown, they really had no other sensible option. Please read the announcement as it says that clubs can still run GNOT sessions once face to face bridge resumes. The ABF hasn't explained the reasoning behind running qualifying events for a non-existent final, but I presume it's twofold; gold masterpoints will help clubs entice their members back to the physical table thus generating income for the club (and the ABF), and to restore equity between clubs (some have already held GNOT sessions, some have not).

Assuming your club reopens before November, how does this affect you? What you do is completely your decision, but it is likely most club will rewrite their programs for the remainder of the year. If you had a GNOT scheduled you can run it or not – your decision. If you didn't intend to play the GNOT, you can now schedule an event using the gold masterpoints to attract players. Most of the previously advertised regulations are now redundant, so keep reading if you're considering holding a GNOT session.

The NSWBA no longer needs income from club GNOT sessions to pay entry fees to the ABF so, within reason, clubs are free to do what they want. The only restrictions that apply now are:

- Club events are still restricted to 2-5 sessions.
- Scoring must still be based on IMPs (i.e. normal team events, Butler Pairs). You can't just re-label some normal matchpoint pairs sessions as "GNOT Qualifier" and award them gold MPs.
- A maximum of 2 events per club may be held.
- All club sessions must be finished by 8 November.

**Masterpoints:** There's a slight change here. As before, clubs email the .gld file to Bill Powell [gnotmp@nswba.com.au](mailto:gnotmp@nswba.com.au) along with all the relevant event info so he can check it. If all is OK, Bill will forward the .gld file to the State MP Secretary for processing. Invoices for the masterpoint costs will be issued directly from the ABF MPC to the club holding the event. All events are still awarded gold MPs at level A2, i.e. weighting of W=5.0.

**Cost:** Clubs should set their own fees, cognisant of the need to pay for the gold masterpoints at \$1.28 each. Remember that no fees are payable to the NSWBA and there is no later stage for which teams are qualifying.

**Regional Finals:** These are allowed, but I'm not expecting many to be held, nor am I encouraging Regions to hold them. Contact your Regional GNOT Organiser to find out more. The permission of the Congress Coordinator [pauline.gumby@nswba.com.au](mailto:pauline.gumby@nswba.com.au) is required in order to avoid clashes with local congresses, many of which have been cancelled. Direct entry is allowed; indeed it's probably the only sensible way to organise it.

Note that nothing in the foregoing should be construed as encouraging your club to reopen in the near future. Each club's situation is different and all club committees should undertake their own research, formulate their own [COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) as per NSW Government regulations and reopen when appropriate.

Stay safe,

*Warren Lazer*

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