

## LETTER TO CAPTAINS RE: THE GNOT 2009 NATIONAL FINAL

### VENUE

The GNOT 2009 National Final will be held at **Club Banora**, Leisure Drive, Banora Point (Tweed Heads), New South Wales 2486. (**Club Banora** is an arm of **Twin Towns Services Club**, Wharf Street, Tweed Heads, New South Wales 2485.)

### TRAVEL

Players are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. There are convenient direct flights from most capital cities to the Gold Coast (Coolangatta airport). Coolangatta airport is approximately 7 km from the venue – Club Banora, Banora Point (Tweed Heads). Players travelling from some other centres will find it more convenient, and perhaps cheaper, to fly to Brisbane and to travel to Tweed Heads by bus, train or rental car. Flight details can be found on airline websites: Qantas [www.qantas.com.au](http://www.qantas.com.au), Virgin Blue [www.virginblue.com.au](http://www.virginblue.com.au).

Each team will receive a travel subsidy from the ABF for four players. The airfare component of the subsidy is based on prices listed on airline websites on the day following team selection in the relevant Regional Finals. Details of subsidies payable appear on the ABF website ([www.abf.com.au](http://www.abf.com.au)) (Click on “Events”, then on “GNOT National Final”.) Players may choose whatever mode of travel they wish. The ABF travel subsidy will remain the same whatever the mode of travel chosen.

Sometimes in the past, players have found that they cannot return home on the flights that they have booked because, perhaps unexpectedly, they qualify for the final, and that the airlines impose financial penalties for re-booking. The ABF will meet this contingency. Provided that a player’s original return flight is scheduled not earlier than 6.30 pm on Sunday November 29, the ABF will pay any extra cost of re-booking should that player’s GNOT commitments make it impossible to catch the original flight.

Where appropriate, the team captain will receive the subsidy for all four members of the team and will bear overall responsibility for travel arrangements. The cheques will be distributed during the Saturday of the GNOT at the venue by the GNOT convenor. However, exceptions may be made on the grounds of financial hardship and the cheques forwarded at an earlier date provided that the captain makes application to the ABF Secretariat explaining the circumstances.

### LOCAL TRAVEL

The GNOT will provide a free return bus service Tweed Heads-Club Banora on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 27, 28 and 29 November. The bus departs from the Twin Towns Resort (**not** the Twin Towns Services Club). The timetable is:

Friday 27 Nov.	Departs Twin Towns Resort	8.30 am & 9.00 am
	Departs Club Banora	8.00 pm & 8.30 pm
Saturday 28 Nov.	Departs Twin Towns Resort	8.30 am & 9.00 am
	Departs Club Banora	8.00 pm & 8.45 pm
Sunday 29 Nov.	Departs Twin Towns Resort	8.15 am & 8.45 am
	Departs Club Banora	5.15 pm & 6.00 pm

Arrangements for pick up between Tweed Heads and Club Banora can be made by phoning 0406 377 156 at any time after 1.00 pm on Thursday 26 November.

Arrangements for set down between Club Banora and Tweed Heads can be made with the bus driver.

In addition, the Twin Town Services Club runs free bus services from the Twin Towns Services Club (Tweed Heads) to Club Banora and return. Details of schedules can be obtained from the reception desks at the Twin Towns Services Club and Club Banora.

## ACCOMMODATION

Players in the GNOT are expected to make their own arrangements about accommodation. There are literally scores of places, both resorts and motels, to stay in Tweed Heads. For details consult your travel agent, the NRMA accommodation guide or internet sites.

## SCHEDULE FOR TIMES OF PLAY

Because the GNOT National Final is being played in New South Wales, the times given for playing schedules are **Eastern Standard Summer Time**. GNOT participants staying in Queensland should note well that Queensland time is one hour behind New South Wales time.

The event commences on Friday 27 November. There are two starting times, viz. 9.30 am (for the 60 teams that **do not** have first-round byes) and **12.00 noon** (for the 2 teams that **do** have first-round byes — Sydney 1 and Sydney 2).

The 60 teams that do not have a first-round bye, i.e. start play at 9.30 am, are:

Far North Queensland	Hunter 2	Mornington Peninsula
North Queensland	Central Coast 1	Northern Victoria
Whitsunday	Central Coast 2	Barwon
Capricornia	Tablelands-Illawarra	Melbourne 1
Wide Bay	South Coast-Monaro	Melbourne 2
Sunshine Coast 1	Mountains	Melbourne 3
Sunshine Coast 2	Central-Northern	Melbourne 4
Gold Coast 1	South-West NSW	Henty
Gold Coast 2	Western NSW	Tasmania 1
Gold Coast 3	Sydney 3	Tasmania 2
Gold Coast 4	Sydney 4	Adelaide 1
Darling Downs	Sydney 5	Adelaide 2
Brisbane 1	Sydney 6	Adelaide 3
Brisbane 2	Sydney 7	SA Provincial
Brisbane 3	Sydney 8	Northern Territory
Northern Rivers 1	Canberra 1	WA Country
Northern Rivers 2	Canberra 2	Perth 1
Tweed	ACT Provincial	Perth 2
North Coast	Gippsland 1	Perth 3
Hunter 1	Gippsland 2	WA Provincial

## FORMAT

1. There are 62 teams. The field will be seeded taking into account form, past performance, and region of origin.
2. The event (until the semi-final stage) will be played in 14-board sets.
3. The event will commence as a knockout, the first round being of 14 boards. There will be **60** teams playing head-to-head in this first knockout round. The **30** winning teams progress to the second knockout round; the **30** losing teams enter the Swiss repechage.
4. The Swiss repechage comprises nine 14-board rounds.
5. The second knockout round comprises 32 teams and will be played over 28 boards in two 14-board sets. The 16 winning teams progress to the third knockout round; the 16 losing teams enter the Swiss repechage.
6. The third knockout round comprises 16 teams and will be played over 28 boards in two 14-board sets. The eight winning teams progress to the fourth knockout round; the eight losing teams enter the Swiss repechage.
7. The fourth knockout round comprises eight teams and will be played over 28 boards in two 14-board sets. The four winning teams progress to the fifth knockout round; the four losing teams enter the Swiss repechage.
8. The fifth knockout round comprises four teams and will be played over 42 boards in three 14-board sets. The two winning teams proceed directly to the semi-finals; the two losing teams proceed to the repechage playoff.
9. The repechage playoff comprises four teams — the two losers from the fifth round knockout and the two top teams from the Swiss. The repechage playoff will be played over 20 boards in two 10-board sets. The two winning teams proceed to the semi-finals.
10. The semi-finals will be played over 48 boards in four 12-board sets.
11. The final will be played over 64 boards in four 16-board sets.

## TIMETABLE (GNOT NATIONAL FINAL)

Friday 27 Nov.	9.30 am	Knockout round 1
	12.00 md	Knockout round 2 Repechage round 1
	1.50 pm	Knockout round 2 (cont.) Repechage round 2
	4.00 pm	Knockout round 3 Repechage round 3
	5.50pm	Knockout round 3 (cont.) Repechage round 4
Saturday 28 Nov.	9.30 am	Knockout round 4 Repechage round 5
	12.00 md	Knockout round 4(cont.) Repechage round 6
	1.50 pm	Knockout round 5 Repechage round 7
	4.00 pm	Knockout round 5 (cont.) Repechage round 8
	5.50 pm	Knockout round 5 (cont.) Repechage round 9
Sunday 29 Nov.	7.40pm	Hospitality
	9.15 am	Repechage final — stanza 1
	10. 45 am	Repechage final — stanza 2
	12.45 pm	Semi-finals — stanza 1
	2.45 pm	Semi-finals — stanza 2
	4.30 pm	Semi-finals — stanza 3
	6.00 pm	Semi-finals — stanza 4

Monday 30 Nov.	9.15 am	Final — stanza 1
	11.15 am	Final — stanza 2
	1.30 pm	Final — stanza 3
	3.30 pm	Final — stanza 4

## BBO

A semi-final and the final of the GNOT National Final will be broadcast on BBO. This means strict adherence to the playing schedules announced for these segments of the tournament.

## SYSTEMS REGULATIONS

Regulations pertaining to systems will be different depending upon whether your team is playing in the knockout phase of the event or in the Swiss repechage:

Knockout regulations. YELLOW systems will be permitted in all knockout phases except knockout rounds 1 and 2. Pairs playing YELLOW systems must submit a concise summary, typed or written in black ink on one side of one sheet of A4 paper to the Chief Tournament Director by **12.00 noon** on Friday 27 November 2009. Failure to comply may result in disallowance of the system.

Repechage regulations. YELLOW systems will not be permitted in the Swiss repechage but **will be permitted in the repechage final.**

## SCORING

Knockout matches will be scored by IMPs. The **30** first-round losers will enter the Swiss with a score of **0 VPs/IMPs**. Teams subsequently entering the Swiss after being knocked out will be allocated the same score; that is, the score of the leading team, or 80% of the available VPs to date, whichever is the lower. Swiss matches will be scored by IMPs converted to VPs on the WBF 14-board scale.

## HOSPITALITY

There will be a small function at close of play on Saturday evening 28 November.

## GNOT PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS (formerly the PROVINCIAL PAIRS)

### Introduction

This 2-session stratified Swiss pairs event will be staged on Sunday 29 November starting at 9.15 am. **All players** who have participated in the GNOT National Final (irrespective of origin) and have been eliminated, are eligible to play free of charge. In addition, players from the Northern Rivers and Gold Coast Regions who have participated in GNOT 2009 qualifying events (i.e. Club Selections and/or Zonal Knockouts) are invited to play in the GNOT Pairs Championships — entry fee \$5 per person.

## Stratification

The GNOT Pairs Championships will comprise three categories, viz. the Metropolitan Pairs, the Provincial Pairs and the Country Pairs. Categorisation will be according to GNOT regions as follows:

Metropolitan	Provincial	Country	
Brisbane	Gold Coast	Far North Queensland	North Queensland
Sydney	Hunter	Whitsunday	Capricornia
Canberra	ACT Provincial	Wide Bay	Sunshine Coast
Melbourne	Tasmania	Darling Downs	Northern Rivers
Adelaide	SA Provincial	Tweed	North Coast
Perth	Northern Territory	Central Coast	Tablelands-Illawarra
	WA Provincial	South Coast-Monaro	Mountains
		Central-Northern	Western NSW
		South-West NSW	Gippsland
		Mornington Peninsula	Northern Victoria
		Barwon	Henty
		WA Country	

## Format

The GNOT Pairs Championships will be played as a stratified Swiss format over seven 8-board rounds. This means that there will be a single field and that pairs, irrespective of categorisation, will be drawn according to the normal Swiss draw against any other pair in the field. At the conclusion of the event, pairs will be placed in finishing order (i) overall and (ii) according to category. Medallions will be awarded to the winning pair overall and to the winning pairs in each category.

## Hospitality

There will be a brief function at close of play on Sunday afternoon during which medallions will be presented.

## Timetable

Sunday 29 Nov.	9.15 am	Swiss round 1
	10.15 am	Swiss round 2 — delayed draw
	11.15 am	Swiss round 3 — delayed draw
	12.15 pm	Swiss round 4 — delayed draw
	2.00 pm	Swiss round 5 — real draw
	3.00 pm	Swiss round 6 — real draw
	4.00 pm	Swiss round 7 — real draw
	5.00 pm	Hospitality and presentation of medallions

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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<b>ABF website</b>	<a href="http://www.abf.com.au">www.abf.com.au</a> (GNOT update)