



# Spring Nationals Bulletin

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Editor Nick Hughes

## Exciting & controversial

The GNOT final series is always interesting – a truly national event with teams from all over. The collapse of Ansett gave the ABF a hefty airfare bill but not as great as first expected.

Moving the GNOT from the start of the festival to the finish has worked well. Also for the first time there was no overlap of the three major events, avoiding the problem of poisoned teams.

## The early rounds

The GNOT started quietly enough on Friday morning with the seeded teams (basically those from Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide & Perth) all winning, or getting byes. (The aim is eventually to get the field size up from the current 48 to 64)

The event runs as a knockout, starting with 14-board matches, increasing to 28 & 42 in later rounds. Losers go into a Swiss.

Round 2 saw the first minor upset when **Northern Rivers** beat **Sydney 4**, a sign of bad times to come for the home city. The winners of that match, Janet Brown, Eric Hurley, Bill Powell & Marjorie Askew, went on to win the Provincial Plate as the highest placed team outside a major capital.

In Round 3, the seven remaining Sydney teams all lost! There were also problems in the back room when the computer scoring system fell over. The tournament staff switched to good old cards, mental arithmetic and felt tip pens – how nostalgic.

## Saturday

This used to be a very heavy day, 80 boards. The welcome reduction to 14-board matches has brought it back to 70 boards.

In the round-of-8, **Melbourne 1** bt **Canberra**, **Adelaide 2** bt **Perth 3** and **Adelaide 1** bt **Melbourne 3**.

The fourth match between **Perth 2** and **Melbourne 2** featured this board:

### GNOT Rd 6, Bd 11

S/Nil	♠ 8 4	
	♥ Q	
	♦ 7 6 5 3	
	♣ A Q 10 9 6 3	
♠ Q 10 9 7 5 2		♠ J 3
♥ J 8		♥ A K 10 9 7
♦ K 10 9 8		♦ A Q J 4 2
♣ 4		♣ K
	♠ A K 6	
	♥ 6 5 4 3 2	
	♦ —	
	♣ J 8 7 5 2	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Cooper	Ebery	Christie	Gold
			2♥ *
2♠	3♦	Dbl	End

This ungainly contract went for 1100. However, there were doubts about the meanings of some of the bids. The director, Diment, was informed that West's 2♠ systemically showed clubs(!) and should have been alerted. Since it was impossible to predict the course of the auction if NS had been given correct information, he cancelled the table result.

So far, so good but then the directing staff erred by removing Bd 11 from play at the other table. EW announced their intention to appeal, a process that ran into unforeseen time-consuming problems. This in turn affected two other matches (see later).

The Appeals Committee had a mind to reinstate the table result (perhaps reversing the result of the match) but there was no result at the other table compare with! They thought to IMP

## GNOT at end of qualifying

- 1= Adelaide 2 (Haffer)
- 1= Melbourne 1 (Hinge)

These two were the unbeaten teams, straight to semis at 1.30 today.

- 3= Adelaide 1 (Sargent)
- 3= Perth 2 (Cooper)

These 2 to repechage vs top 2 in Swiss

## Swiss (top 2 to repechage)

1st	Sydney 1	183
2nd	Sydney 3	174
3=	Perth 3	172
3=	Adelaide 3	172
5th	Melbourne 3	169
6th	Melbourne 2	168

Entry - 48 teams

the table result against a datum made from results at the top tables but there is no clear legal basis for doing this.

The Convener, John Brockwell, resolved the matter by offering **Melbourne 2** a 4-board play-off, which they accepted, losing by 2 IMPs.

While this was happening, two more teams were left twiddling their thumbs. The losers of the appeal match were due to play the Swiss leaders, **Sydney 1**, but that match was cancelled and scored as an 18-all draw. That left **Perth 2** to play **Melbourne 1** over 28 boards (rather than the scheduled 42) for a seat in the semis.

This match went past the wire, too. The Perth team lead by 22 IMPs after 14 but it was exactly even after 28, meaning a 2-board play-off! Melbourne won this to get Sunday morning off, together with **Adelaide 2** (featuring Haffer & Markey from the SNOT winners), who beat **Adelaide 1** by 65 IMPs.

## The Swiss

**Sydney 1** (Cummings, the defending champions) & **Sydney 3** (Neill) recovered well from their early exits from the knock-out and were nicely clear going into the last round of the Swiss.

They played each other, with McDonald - Walsh having a bad set for the **Neill** team. -1240 is generally a bad score and Barbara was resigned to sleeping-in this morning. However, their partners had a good

## Grand National Open Teams (GNOT)

Sun 18th Semis from 10 am (repechage)  
(also Provincial Pairs, 10am start)

Mon 19th GNOT final at **Double Bay Bridge Centre**, from 9.30am

enough set for an 11-19 loss, which turned out to be enough to scrape into the repechage.

Opponents were decided by toss of coin with **Sydney 1** to play **Adelaide 1** and **Sydney 3** to play **Perth 2** over 20 boards this morning.

Here are two boards from the final round of the Swiss:

### GNOT Rd 10, Bd 9

N/EW	♠ —	
	♥ A Q 9 7 5 2	
	♦ A 10 9 5	
	♣ 6 5 2	
♠ A 10 7 5 4 2		♠ Q J 9 6 3
♥ 10 4		♥ 8
♦ 7		♦ K Q 8 6 2
♣ Q 10 9 4		♣ J 3
	♠ K 8	
	♥ K J 6 3	
	♦ J 4 3	
	♣ A K 8 7	

Ted Griffin played 5♥ from North after East had overcalled 1♠ and West had raised to game. He ruffed the spade lead, played a club to the ace, drew trumps, ruffed the ♠K and exited with ♣K-another. Now he was cold on virtually any layout.

If West leads another club, ruff, cross to dummy in trumps and lead a diamond for a guaranteed endplay. 11 IMPs in when 5♥ failed at the other table.

### GNOT Rd 10, Bd 12

W/NS	♠ A K J 9 8	
	♥ 7 6 4 3	
	♦ 9 6	
	♣ 8 4	
♠ 7 5 4 3 2		♠ Q 6
♥ K J 5		♥ A 10 2
♦ J 7 5		♦ A K Q 10 4
♣ A J		♣ 7 3 2
	♠ 10	
	♥ Q 9 8	
	♦ 8 3 2	
	♣ K Q 10 9 6 5	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Griffin		M Hughes
No	No	1NT	No
2♥	No	2♠	No
3NT	Dbl	End	

One off on the ♠10 lead together with +400 at the other table on a club lead. Double is not without risk and will sometimes lead to a swift -1000 in 3NTxx but it's the percentage action. Incidentally, I reckon West is wrong to transfer; just Stayman and ignore the 5-3.

### Slams in the Mountains

Here's a hand featuring the old-fashioned direct Acoll approach:

### GNOT Rd 8, Bd 12

W/NS	♠ 7	
	♥ K Q J 4	
	♦ A 9 8 7	
	♣ A K J 8	
♠ A 10 6 5 3 2		♠ K Q J 9
♥ 2		♥ A 8 5 3
♦ —		♦ 6 5 4 3
♣ Q 9 7 6 4 2		♣ 5
	♠ 8 4	
	♥ 10 9 7 6	
	♦ K Q J 10 2	
	♣ 10 3	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Dbl	6♠ <sup>2</sup>	No
No	Dbl <sup>3</sup>	End	

- 1 Acoll 2, 8 playing tricks in spades!
- 2 8 + 4 = 12
- 3 Will this be 300? 500? 800?

No, -1210. That's how the Blue Mountains teams bid their slams!

### Some left over SNOT hands

Most declarers stumbled through this hand but few found the correct line.

### SNOT Rnd 5, Bd 11

S/Nil	♠ 10	
	♥ K 10 8 7 4	
	♦ A J 10 4 3	
	♣ 6 2	
♠ 7 6 4		♠ A K Q 9 5
♥ A 9 5 3		♥ J 6 2
♦ K 7 6 2		♦ —
♣ Q 9		♣ A J 10 8 7
	♠ J 8 3 2	
	♥ Q	
	♦ Q 9 8 5	
	♣ K 5 4 3	

Everyone played 4♠ on a heart lead. Avon points out that the best line by far is to play a heart at trick two, building your tenth trick. Anything else risks getting forced off. If you play a club instead, a diamond

switch from South puts the contract in danger.

### Horsham revisited

#### SNOT Rnd 9, Bd 12

W/NS	♠ K 8	
	♥ A K J 10 4 3	
	♦ A 6 4 3	
	♣ K	
♠ A Q 3 2		♠ J 10 9 7 6 4
♥ Q		♥ 2
♦ Q 5		♦ 8 2
♣ Q J 10 8 7 2		♣ 9 6 4 3
	♠ 5	
	♥ 9 8 7 6 5	
	♦ K J 10 9 7	
	♣ A 5	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣*	4♥	4♠	5♣
Dbl	No	No	Rdbl
End			

1♣ was artificial. This went for -3400, the postcode of Horsham. Tony Jackman saved well in 6♠ at the other table, where the defence slipped to collect 1100. Since 6♥ will usually make +1430, Tony was optimistic but still shelled out the maximum 24 IMPs.

### SNOT Rnd 9, Bd 10

E/Both	♠ J 10 8 6	
	♥ K	
	♦ 9 8 5	
	♣ Q 9 8 5 3	
♠ A 4		♠ 5 3 2
♥ 8		♥ Q J 9 6 4 3 2
♦ K Q J 7 6 2		♦ A 3
♣ K 10 6 2		♣ A
	♠ K Q 9 7	
	♥ A 10 7 5	
	♦ 10 4	
	♣ J 7 4	

3NT is easy but 4♥ on a spade lead is interesting. Win the ace, unblock the ♣A then see how many spades you can get away on dummy's minors. South ruffs and tries to cash the ♠Q but you ruff. Best now is a low heart since stiff A or K is more likely than a stiff ♥10. Well played but South can thwart this by leading the ♣J when he ruffs a diamond. Then North can lead another club when in with the ♥K, which promotes the 10.

*This has been the final printed Bulletin. Catch the closing issue on the net at [www.abf.com.au/events/spnot/index.html](http://www.abf.com.au/events/spnot/index.html). Remember the 64-board GNOT final is at Double Bay. See you at Hakoah next year!*



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