



Dear BGA Member

BGA Response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus

You will be aware of the recently issued government advice on dealing with the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak:

- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- <https://www.who.int/coronavirus>

The BGA Council has considered the situation and decided:

- **2020 British Go Congress cancelled**

The British Go Congress was scheduled to be held at Eastwood, near Nottingham, on April 17-19. In light of current government advice, we have decided to CANCEL this event. We are sorry. We regret any inconvenience caused, especially if this affects you financially. Unfortunately we don't feel that it would be possible to continue with the event at this time.

We know that this will come as a disappointment to many of you; the British Congress has been run every year from 1968, and is a staple of our Calendar.

We will continue to monitor the situation in case it becomes possible to run the event at a later date; it is possible that we will hold the Congress sometime in the Autumn, but it is far too early to make any plans about that at this moment.

- **2020 Annual General Meeting- Postponed**

As in the previous 52 years, we had planned to hold the BGA Annual General Meeting during the British Go Congress. This will not now go ahead.

Our Constitution requires us to hold an AGM "between 1 February and 30 June" each year; and we need 20 people to take part to satisfy the quorum requirements. (The Constitution does not allow for postal or proxy votes, although in an unrelated initiative Council will be proposing the introduction of proxy voting to our constitution.) We do not believe that it will be possible to meet these requirements without a major flouting of the government guidelines. We will seek to hold the AGM in the Autumn; but again it is too early to make any concrete plans. The AGM will take place irrespective of whether or not we reinstate the British Congress for this year.

We will be posting the 2019 Accounts, and the Officers' Reports, on the web-site shortly.

- **Candidates' Tournament - cancelled**

The first round of the British Championship, the Candidates' Tournament, was due to take place in Milton Keynes over the early May Bank Holiday (Friday May 8 – Sunday May 10). This has also been CANCELLED. We are looking at alternative ways of identifying the British Champion, but again it is too early to identify the best solution.

Other tournaments

The Cheshire (Frodsham) Tournament, due to take place on March 22, has already been cancelled due to concerns that it might contribute to the spread of Covid-19.

Other tournaments – such as the kyu players weekend, Nottingham, Not the London Open - are the responsibility of individual clubs, and not the BGA. However, we urge Tournament Organisers to study the Government advice, and to consider carefully if they should cancel the event. Please let us know if cancellation is likely to result in significant out-of-pocket expenses.

Alternative events being investigated

Matt Marsh is investigating holding one or more online tournaments to take the place of these cancelled events, and would appreciate your views.

Club Meetings left to Club's discretion

Once again, we urge all Club members to study the government advice, and possibly to consider their own individual circumstance, in deciding whether or not to cancel Club meetings.

Conclusion

I am sorry we have had to take these steps. You will appreciate that we have done so in the best interests of our members. We look forward to getting back on an even keel once this disease is under control.

Toby Manning
President, British Go Association