

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PLAYING ON BBO

Version 1.2

12/05/2020 CPD

1. Registering for BBO

If you are not yet registered with BBO (Bridge Base Online) Follow these steps:

- a) Access BBO either from a desktop or laptop computer using a browser such as Chrome or Safari by searching for Bridgebase On Line (bridgebase.com). If you wish to access from a tablet or iPad then download the BBO app and use this. It is not recommended to play using a smartphone.
- b) Click 'Become a Member' and type in a User Name (can be anything but will be rejected if it is already in use), Password, and Email address. Recommended to enter also your Real Name. Ignore ACBL number and Other. Select skill level (it won't really matter what you enter here) and also England as your country. Then click on 'Accept Terms' (read them if you want to). Then click on 'Register'. Before you can login, you will be sent an Email containing a Registration Confirmation. Click on 'Click Here to Confirm'. Although the Bristol Bridge Club games are free, there are some games which have a small cost. Deposits can be made to your account in dollars using either a credit card or PayPal. I suggest you deposit \$20. Click on the BB\$ button on the top right of the screen and follow instructions.

2. Practising on BBO

BBO Settings. Select the 'Account' tab (right of the screen) and open 'Settings'. To start, I recommend that you leave the defaults as they are except to disable Sound Effects which can be very irritating. To get used to playing on BBO you can do any of the following. On your own you can play against 3 robots. They play 5 card majors and strong NT and you are shown the meaning of their bids. To play with robots select 'Instant Tournaments' (cost of about \$0.40 which will be taken from your account). Use this just to get used to bidding and playing. If 4 of you wish to practise, then just follow the instructions below for starting a table and playing.

3. Starting or joining a table for the Bristol Online Pairs event

You must follow these instructions precisely!!!

- a) **After you login to BBO, you must select 'Casual' whether you are starting the table or just joining it. This is necessary following a change to the BBO website on May 11th 2020.**
- b) If someone else is starting the table, you can then just wait for an invitation to join. If you don't get the invitation – please ensure you have selected 'Casual'.
- c) The following instructions are for the person starting the table
 - i) Select 'Start a table'
 - ii) On the top left you will see the word 'Scoring' which is set by default to IMPS. Click on the little down arrow next to this and select 'Matchpoints'
 - iii) Click on the toggle for Invisible (icon to the right of the word 'Invisible') and move it to the 'On' position, otherwise you'll get strangers joining the table.
 - iv) Click on 'Start Table - Competitive game'

At this point, the table will be created. Click on each of the 4 compass directions at the table and select 'Sit' where you want to play and on the other 3 select 'Reserve' and enter the BBO name of the player who will occupy that seat. If you make a mistake, click again on the seat and select 'Reserve' and then change the name. Once you reserve a seat, the player will get an invitation to join.

- v) If a player fails to respond to the invitation it may be because they have forgotten to select 'Casual' (item 'a' above). Might be an idea to ring, text or Email them just in case this is the case.

4. How to Play a match

- a) As soon as all 4 players are seated, the game starts. Click on the 'History' tab on the right of the screen where your results and percentage score will be displayed. If you are playing on an iPad or other tablet, the 'History' option maybe at the foot of the screen and you will have to select 'Play' to be returned to the table.
- b) When it is your bid, a bidding panel is automatically displayed. To make a bid click as appropriate. The denominations are not shown until you have entered a number representing the level of the bid. On the bidding panel the word 'Alert' followed by 'Explain' is shown. Click on this to explain your own bid before you make it. The auction is shown on a panel in the middle of the table. To ask the meaning of an opponent's bid, just click on the bid. Click on your own bid to explain if you forgot to alert of if you are asked.
- c) When it is your turn to play, just click on the card you wish to play. You are permitted to Claim or Concede at any time it is your turn to play (button on left of screen). This will display a panel on the bottom left for your opponents to indicate acceptance or otherwise. Please look out for this panel during the play to ensure you notice a claim made by an opponent.
- d) The score for each hand will be shown as a percentage. This is a Matchpoint percentage compared to other players who have played the hand on BBO and will be susceptible to change as more people play the hand. Note that these players are not players in the Bristol Club competition. Your running score is shown on the top left and also in the History panel on the right (although you may have to click 'Refresh' for this to be accurate). You should keep track of the score at all times in case BBO crashes for some reason. The information you need is the number of boards you have played so far and the running percentage score (taken from the top left of the screen).
- e) Look at the bottom of the screen for messages from the other players. This is a 'chat' window (which you can enlarge if necessary).
- f) It is possible to edit and load a convention card which your opponents can see. For this event it is neither necessary nor recommended that you do so. Just explain the basis of your system at the start of a session (using 'chat') and alert your conventional bids. EBU rules for alerting or announcing do not apply.

5. What happens if something goes wrong

- a) When you start playing you realise that the scoring is still IMPS - please leave the table (just click on your own name) and start the table again.
- b) A player loses connection. The player who is the table host should click on the seat where the player who lost connection was sitting (this will now show the compass point - eg 'South', and Reserve the seat for that player who will rejoin as soon as they regain connection. When this happens, please make a note of the number of boards you have played and the current percentage score as shown on the top left . This will be needed if you are unable to restart at that time.
- c) If you get an unexpected 50% on a board (eg you have just played 3♠X and made an overtrick), the probable reason is that no-one else has yet played the hand. This may happen towards the end of a long session, or if you play your match at, say, 2AM! This is a bit a rub of the green and you'll just have to accept the score although if you wait, generally the score will change as some people will have played the hand. Best is to terminate the game (saving your score and number of boards) and re-start the table.

HELP!

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