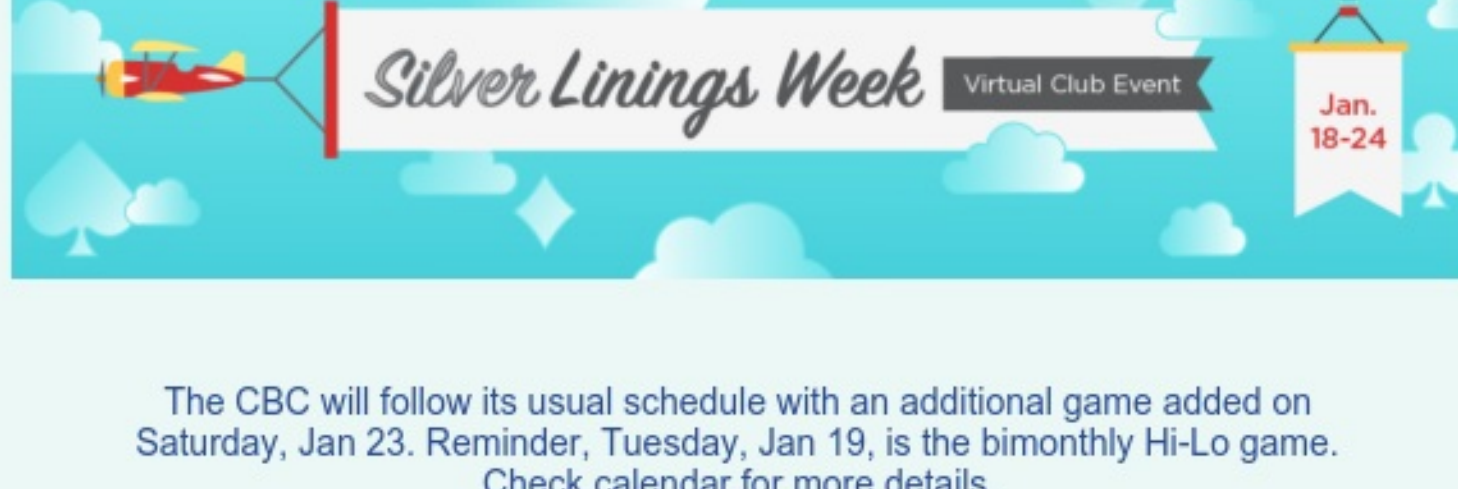
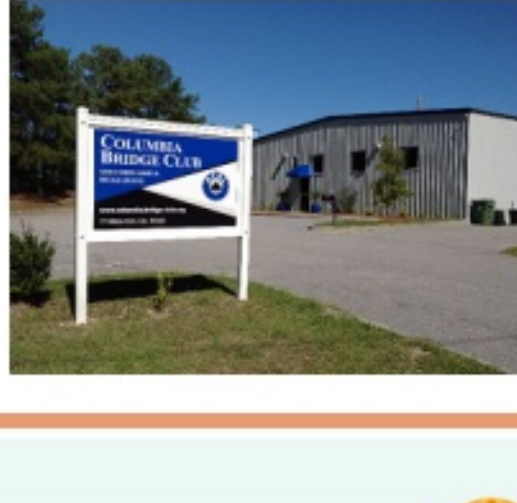


## CBC NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021



The CBC will follow its usual schedule with an additional game added on Saturday, Jan 23. Reminder, Tuesday, Jan 19, is the bimonthly Hi-Lo game. Check calendar for more details.

### BBO Collecting Sales Tax on BB\$

Until December 2020, BBO only collected sales taxes from players living in a few US States, at the time they purchased BB\$.

In order to better align with State tax code recent changes in their requirements, starting in January 2021 purchases made by most US residents will be subjected to sales taxes.

Sales taxes will be calculated and added to your purchase accordingly to the local tax rate.

### Alerting/Announcing on BBO

By Michael Bitonti

"So much time and so little to do. Wait a minute. Strike that. Reverse it."

That's a quote from Gene Wilder's character Willy Wonka from his 1971 film, "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory". But strangely enough it was the first thing I thought of when I decided to sit down and write an article on the proper method of alerting/ announcing calls on Bridge Base Online. There's a lot to cover here, so let's get to it!

Let's start with a few definitions:

Alert: A notification, whose form may be specified by the Regulating Authority, to the effect that opponents may be in need of an explanation.

Announcement: a public: full disclosure of the facts pertaining to a call

Artificial: A bid, double, or redouble that conveys information (not being information taken for granted by players generally) other than (or in addition to) a willingness to play in the denomination named or last named.

Convention: is an agreement about an artificial call or a set of related artificial calls

The main differences between an Alert and an Announcement are:

1. Alerts are required by the ACBL for many conventional calls. You can find the complete list here: <http://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/play/convention-chart.pdf>, but for purposes of BBO you should only be concerned with the ACBL General Convention Chart.
2. Announcements such as "forcing", "transfer", and "may be short" are common examples that everyone (hopefully!) has been using

When playing face-to-face bridge, people have long been accustomed to alerting their partner's calls and making the proper announcements when necessary. Then COVID-19 came, and along with it online bridge. The bridge world has been turned upside-down with a completely different set of actions required by players. Let's look at what's required of players while playing online at BBO.

Alerting in BBO is exactly opposite that of the face-to-face game whereby players **alert their own alertable calls and never their partner's calls**. I put that last part in bold-underlined deliberately to emphasize the **PROPER** method. Alerting your own calls in the face-to-face game would result in your partner being given the info the same time the opponents are. But in BBO, any alerts and/or announcements you make only go to the opponents. Your partner never sees any of it until after the hand has been played. All alerts and announcements are then displayed in the hand history.

To alert a call in BBO, here are the steps to will follow when it's your turn to call:

1. Click on the red Alert button
2. Key in an explanation for the alert
3. Key in the bid

NEVER, NEVER, NEVER... EVER give just the name of a convention unless you're playing against a pair you know for sure will understand. Bridge is a game of full disclosure when it comes to the auction. It's not fair to expect an opponent to be familiar with all the conventions, nor is it fair to expect them to beat the information out of you. And if they have to then it's a waste of time. I see people give explanations on calls such as: "Flannery". Sounds like an Irish whiskey. I'd wager a good many people don't know what/who that even means. The onus is on the player making the call to fully disclose.

Announcements are explanations on non-alertable calls and can made with the same procedure as the alert except you don't click on the red Alert button first. When my partners and I play our Precision system, I try to make announcements on the 1-spade/1-heart opening calls as: "11-15 5+ S" or "11-15 5+ H" to represent 11-15 high card points and 5 or more spades or hearts. This is because we have an uncommon range of high card points for those opening calls. While I'm technically not required to make those explanations, in the spirit of full disclosure I try to remember to do so.

Explanations can be made with or without the call being alertable, and it's good practice to do so. Just remember that **explanations and alerts only ever apply to your own calls and not your partner's calls**. There are those in the club that are still trying to alert and explain their partners bids. **STOP DOING THAT!!!** It may be misunderstood by the opponents and then they may be entitled to redress (damages).

I'll wrap it up here before my Editor gets too unhappy with the length. I warned you there was a lot to cover, and there's more still in next month's article. In the meantime, I intend to hold an online Zoom session where we will go over alerting, announcing, and try to cover some of the new alerting/announcing rules that the ACBL has come up with for 2021. Keep watching your e-mails and the club web site for details. Also, there is an article in the January 2021 issue of the ACBL Bulletin that covers the new alert/ announcement procedures. It would serve everyone well to read over that article very carefully. As always, feel free to call me if you have any questions/concerns on any of these topics.

Be good and play well!

Michael Bitonti  
Head Director - CBC

### Zoom Lesson! Wednesdays at 12:05 PM

Join us for a 30 Minute Lesson on Zoom!

Every Wednesday - 12:05 PM  
Instructor: Jack Self

Zoom Link (same every week):  
<https://zoom.us/j/94231528795?pwd=TDFOY0RERXdmNUU2bVJMWDdEQ3ZWUT09>

Meeting ID: 942 3152 8795  
Passcode: playbridge

During these sessions, it will be beneficial to have a deck of cards that have been sorted into suits. This will enable attendees to lay out some of the situations discussed and see it "live" as they actually play along with Jack.

The CBC Virtual Game will follow the Lesson!  
Two sections are scheduled: 12:55 PM 0-300 Pairs and 1:05 PM Open Pairs.



Join Your Friends at the CBC for Special Games Valentine's Weekend.  
Open and 0-300 Pairs - Saturday and Sunday.

Double Masterpoints

Game Fee will be reduced to \$3.00

Thank you! CBC members for your continuing support!



**Congratulations!**

### Masterpoint Milestones

**Diamond Life Master (5000+)**  
Alice Moore

**Ruby Life Master (1500+)**  
Kathy Kimmerling

**Silver Life Master (1000+)**  
Ginny Chianelli  
Beth Watson

**Life Master (300+)**  
Brenda Isbell

**NABC Master (200+)**  
Eddie Crosby



### Upcoming Special CBC Virtual Club Games and Online Tournaments

#### Special Games and Events at the Virtual CBC

January 18-24 Silver Linings Week  
January 19 Hi-Lo Game +/- 500 MP Pairs (SILVER POINTS)

February 2 Hi-Lo Game +/- 500 MP Pairs  
February 13-14 Valentine's Weekend Event  
February 16 Hi-Lo Game +/- 500 MP Pairs

#### Virtual Regional Tournaments and Other National Events

February 18-21 [Hollywood Magic Online Regional](#)

Dear CBC Members,

Here we are, most of us scampering to find a vaccine and begin the process of herd immunity. It appears that most of us will have an opportunity in the next few weeks or the next month to get our first shot, following 3-4 weeks later with the second and then giving another 10 days to 2 weeks to hopefully be one of the 95% that is to some degree immune from this virus terrorist. This puts us in April or May when many of us should be ready to play fact to face.

I will be meeting with our board the 7 of February to discuss a potential date to reopen. We will keep you well informed. CBC will sanitize our building as well as follow all guidelines to keep you safe in our building.

Our efforts toward establishing Wednesday and Thursday games of 0-300 has been somewhat successful. Jack has offered two free lessons and they have been very informative and helpful. I learned something both times, so please take advantage of his knowledge and interest in imparting these tips on to you. Jack is offering these mini lessons committing his time to assist our newer players.

We would like to have an additional two pair on these days to make this a fun and point producing game for you.

As we look to reopen we will be discussing new games and new lessons so look for it !!

I have put out a notice with this newsletter about our upcoming election. Please take this seriously and consider who you think will make a hard working committed board member. We are all volunteers so the love of the game and the success of our club should be a standard of all board members.

Stay well,  
Shelby King/CBC President

Socrates: "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old but on building the new."

### Support the CBC - Play in Daily ACBL SYC Games

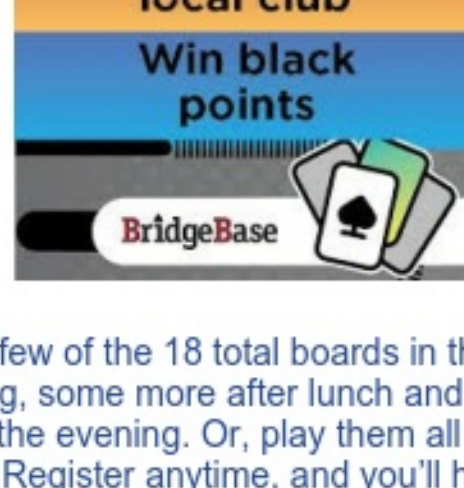
ACBL has partnered with [Bridge Base Online \(BBO\)](#) and The Common Game to give you chances each day to earn black masterpoints online. Additionally, the majority of the game fees you pay will be given to your local club to support them during this difficult time.

**Support Your Club ACBL Black Point Games are pair events.** Games are held on BBO three times a day:

10:00 am, 5:10 pm and 7:30 pm.

Registration opens two hours before game time. You can play with any other ACBL member who has a BBO account.

**NEW! Daylong Tournaments are solo events played with robots.** In this game, you have up to 24 hours to complete your game, and it doesn't have to be played all at once. You can even pause in the middle of a hand.



Play a few of the 18 total boards in the morning, some more after lunch and the rest in the evening. Or, play them all in one sitting! Register anytime, and you'll have until midnight Eastern time to finish the boards.

Both events use matchpoint scoring, and masterpoints earned in these games will count toward District and Unit races.

### 99'er Virtual Game - Every Night 7:00 PM

Play with your friends from the CBC, or make some new ones in Districts 9 & 7 & 24 !!

Play 12 relaxed boards at approximately 7 ½ minutes a board. This game pays back to the players' home clubs; the CBC will receive \$3.00 every time you play in this game. Lesson before the game and Hand Analysis after. Great way to improve your game and support your club!

### 2021 Online Event Schedule

Click to see what's next and plan your year.



Have a comment or an article you would like to submit? Reply to this email or send to [cbc.news.sc@gmail.com](mailto:cbc.news.sc@gmail.com). This is your Club newsletter and all suggestions or submissions for future articles are welcome! Please submit articles by the 3rd of the month. All articles are subject to editorial approval and edit.

The CBC Newsletter is published monthly by the Columbia Bridge Club - Columbia, SC  
[www.bridgewebs.com/columbiabridgeclub/](http://www.bridgewebs.com/columbiabridgeclub/)

