

Dear fellow members,

I am Andy Wooldridge. My wife Kay and I joined the club approximately ten years ago. Since COVID, for a variety of reasons, we have chosen to play most of our bridge on BBO and still thoroughly enjoy the excellent sessions run by HBC. When a vacancy arose on the committee, I put my name forward. I am pleased to have been elected as the newest member of your committee.

It was agreed at our first committee meeting, that one of my key roles will be to provide BBO support to members. My role will be entitled "BBO Player Support". My objective is to encourage more members to join our on line sessions when they are unable to play at the club. For example, there are some members who don't feel comfortable going out in the evenings but still want to play bridge. Our on line sessions are perfect for them. My support is not intended to take members away from playing FTF bridge, more a case of providing support for members to play on line when it is not practical for them to attend sessions at the club. I am setting up a partner finding service, similar to the excellent service provided by Jo Waddingham for club sessions. I have a new E-Mail address to be used for all contacts:

BBOAndy@horshambridge.co.uk

Please contact me for any of the following:

1. You are interested in playing on line bridge and want some help getting started.
2. You are willing to volunteer as a partner for anyone looking for a partner to play in one or more of our BBO sessions.
3. You are looking for a partner to play on line with. Finding a partner is even more challenging on BBO, so I am keen to help members pair up.
4. You have friends or relations who want to join the club and play on line. We have some great examples where playing on line enables people to play bridge together who could not do so before because of geography. For example, we have one long standing member who now plays regularly with his brother who lives in Glasgow.

I am attending some of our excellent training sessions to explain this new service to our students to encourage them to play on line bridge when they are unable to attend club sessions. Some of you may prefer to start playing BBO bridge in one of our daytime sessions, which can be a good stepping stone to playing in the evening sessions where some of our most experienced players choose to play. Please don't be put off by the standard of evening sessions, some are handicapped, providing a more level playing field for all standards of player. With BBO everything is more visible, so presents great learning opportunities. If I can help any member with support for BBO bridge, whether it be interest in playing in any of our BBO sessions, navigating the system, or looking for a partner, please contact me.

I will also be responsible for all health & safety issues for the club. If you have any concerns or suggestions to ensure the safety of our members, please let me know.

Enjoy your bridge, whichever format of the game you choose to play.

Andy Wooldridge