



Bromley North Bridge Club



Email: bnbc@bromleynorthbc.co.uk

Bromley North Bridge Club is registered as a Virtual Bridge Club on Bridge Base Online (bridgebase.com) and hosts club duplicate sessions. If you have not yet played any online bridge and you would like to start, perhaps you might like to register on BBO and have some casual friendly games of four. Please contact the club if you would like help with arranging this.

The duplicate pairs sessions with 24 boards are at **7pm** every Monday evening. We invite all our members to participate and also friends of Bromley North, i.e. people from other local clubs who play online. We have many of our members' BBO ids, but if you haven't been in contact, please let us know yours, so you can be added to the list in order to be able to play. If you have friends from outside the club, please let us have their full name, BBO id and EBU number (EBU number not essential if they do not have one).

You will need to have some \$BBs on your BBO account before you will be able to register to join one of our duplicate sessions (called tournaments on BBO). The fee for each session is \$BB4 (equivalent to about £3.20). This rate may be reviewed. The club does not intend to make a profit and the rate has been set to cover the running costs (BBO 30%, EBU pay to play and fee for Tournament Director). Details on how to purchase \$BBs are shown below, but one point to note is that it is best to use a debit or credit card for payment, preferably one that doesn't charge a fee for overseas transactions, to avoid excessive commission charges.

You must register for each duplicate session in the two hours leading up to it (i.e. from 5pm on the Monday evening). By the time you register you will need to have organised a partner, who also needs to be online at the time of registering. Details are shown below on how to register for a tournament.

You must be logged on to BBO at the time the tournament starts, and not playing at any other table, just before 7pm, at which point you will automatically be taken to your first table of the duplicate and play will commence. If you are accidentally logged off at this point, we will try and delay the start of the tournament until you are back online, but this cannot be guaranteed and you and your partner may have to drop out.

As we cannot have half tables, we need to have a host pair for each session. Please let us know who your regular partner is, so that we can organise a host list. You will not be charged for a session if you are hosts, whether or not you are called upon to play.

You do not need to let us know in advance that you intend to play, as long as we already have your BBO id on record. If you are new to the Bromley North online sessions, please email bnbc@bromleynorthbc.co.uk in advance with your BBO id and EBU number if you have one so that you are included in the list of potential players. You will, of course, still need to register for the tournament on BBO at any point from 5:00pm on Monday.

Further Details about On-line bridge (with thanks to Farnborough BC)

How to purchase \$BBs

Included below is the link on BBO where you can purchase \$BBs. It's best to use a debit or credit card. There is an option that allows you to pay for your partner.

<https://www.bridgebase.com/purchase/pay.php>

How to enter a tournament on BBO

<https://blog.bridgebase.com/2020/03/09/new-to-bridge-base-online/>

Our tournaments all have Bromley North in their title, so put this into the Search box in the Tournament section and it will appear (as long as you are in the two hour period before start of play). You can also find us via the Virtual Clubs link.

How the tournament will be run

EBU master points will be awarded for each session. We have taken the decision to start by not having the sessions NGS graded, and this decision will be kept under review.

Derek Patterson will be our Director and you can call him to the table if there is any problem. Press the three white bars in the blue box top left on the BBO screen and select Director.

Directly at the end of play you will get a provisional result. There is then a 20 minute period where any problems can be addressed, in case adjustments need to be made etc, after which the result will become final. Results will be uploaded to the Bromley North and EBU websites.

Timing of tournament

Our tournaments are timed to give 8 minutes per board. This will be reviewed after a few weeks.

At the end of the allotted time for the round, BBO will move you to the next round regardless of whether you have finished or not. The Director will then try to assign a score for the board based on what has happened up to that point. In the meantime, the board might be assigned as an average, or the computer might have assigned a score for you (if it had very nearly finished). In the 20 minutes post-session, the Director will be looking through all these boards and trying to make a fair assessment.

Be aware that if all the tables finish, then everyone moves for the next round automatically. So, on occasions, the next round might start earlier than the countdown clock suggests!

Feedback would be welcome on whether or not you would like a break halfway through the tournament.

Friendly play

Let us try to keep our online Bridge Club a friendly place to play. So please, write a message to the table, say hello to other players as you arrive at the table, give a one line summary of your system at the beginning of each round including your carding methods (e.g. you might write to the table, "Hi both, we play 12-14 NT, 4CM, 3 weak twos, standard carding" - and you could have this copied to your clipboard ready to paste, to save having to type it out each time).

Making a Claim

Don't feel in a rush, but please don't play too slowly! Learn about claiming if you don't already know - if you make a claim, please be careful about the number of tricks you are claiming and add an explanation about your line of play if one is needed - e.g. "draw trumps and then I have the rest" or "I will take the marked spade finesse" or "I will cash my side-suit winners and you can take your trump trick when you like".

Alerting and Explaining Bids

On BBO, you Alert and explain YOUR OWN BIDS. Not partner's.

This is very different to play at the club in real life, - here is how you could approach it on BBO.

1NT-2D-2H-3NT-Pass

I have a 1NT opener, so when it's my turn, the "Bidding Box" appears on my screen. I do things in the following order:

I write "12-14" in the Explain box, I click 1, I click NT. The bid is now made.

My OPPONENTS will now see that I have bid 1NT and immediately see the explanation for that bid (notice I didn't click on Alert, as it wasn't an artificial bid that needed alerting, I was just being nice and reminding my opponents that my 1NT opener is 12-14).

My PARTNER will just see 1NT. No explanation.

My partner has 5 hearts and game values, so after the next hand passes he would do things in the following order:

He clicks on "Alert", he writes "Hearts" in the Explain box, he clicks on 2, he clicks on D. The bid is now made.

Our OPPONENTS will see the 2D bid with a red box around it (this signifies that the bid is artificial and needed alerting) and they will see that the bid shows hearts from the explanation that appears.

As his PARTNER, I will just see 2D. No Alert and No Explanation.

As opener, I have a normal completion for the transfer, so, after the next pass:

I click on "Alert", I click on 2, I click on H. The bid is now made. Notice, you don't have to always write an explanation if it's very clear what the bid means, but you do need to alert this bid, as it is not natural.

The OPPONENTS will see the alert, but not partner. He will just see 2H.

Next hand passes and partner clicks on 3, clicks on NT. The bid is made

This final bid didn't need an alert or an explanation, I don't think.

Undos

Undos are not permitted in BBO club tournaments. If necessary, you can call the Director to resolve an issue.

Losing connection

If you get logged out, don't worry, just log back in as soon as you can and you will be brought back into the tournament at the earliest opportunity. In the meantime, if needed, the Director will find a substitute for the remainder of the board you are playing or place himself in your seat as a substitute.