

# CBC VIRTUAL CLUB GAMES

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We are pleased to announce that the Columbia Bridge Club will run its inaugural Bridge Base Online **Virtual CBC Club Game** this coming Thursday afternoon at 1:05 pm. Our club will join dozens of other ACBL clubs that are running games which pay out masterpoints.

This first game will be an Open Pairs game. The cost of the game will be \$5.00 (BB\$), 18 boards will be played, (3 boards / 21-minute rounds) and the estimated run-time of the game is 2 hours. While this game is an Open Pairs game, the field will be auto stratified and balanced by the BBO computer. You will be playing against people - no robots.

Registration for this game will begin at 11:05 am on Thursday morning and you are strongly encourage to e-mail back your and your partner's BBO usernames prior to registration (see below). The game will start precisely at 1:05 pm, so please plan to log into BBO at least 10 minutes ahead of time. BBO cannot hold the game for latecomers! We will need to have 6 tables - (12 pairs) to run a game.

To aid in registering for a game, it is very important that we have your BBO user name. These Virtual Club games are private and you will not be able to register if you are not one of CBC's 'friends'. Please REPLY back to this email with your BBO username and you will added to the

list. Also, it may be helpful to add the CBC's BBO user name to your friend list: VACB107318

Registration for CBC Virtual Club games can be found at the BBO Home Page: [PLAY OR WATCH](#) → [COMPETITIVE](#) → [ACBL VIRTUAL CLUBS](#)

There is a Partnership Desk and Substitute option at registration time. If you do not have a partner - look into this.

Before the game, please take a few minutes and complete a **Convention Card** for you and your partner. In the absence of a convention card on file for your partnership, BBO will default to the Standard American Yellow Card.

On BBO we '**SELF ALERT**' our bids: when making a bid, [CLICK](#) → [ALERT](#), type in a brief description of what the bid means or is asking – *not the convention name*, then click the bid value and suit. This will ensure that the opponents see the Alert and description but not your partner. Do not ask bidding questions at the [TABLE](#) chat box; either check the convention card on file, click on the bid or [Call the Director](#) if needed. (During a game, the [Convention Card](#) and [Call Director](#) buttons are found in the [BLUE BOX](#) at the top left of your screen.)

Quite a few CBC members have been playing on BBO over the last few weeks, and there are more members that haven't yet tried it but might be willing to once they become familiar with the interface. Bridge on the computer, iPad, phone, etc.. obviously isn't the same as sitting around a table holding cards, using bidding boxes, and just physically being in the presence of other players. For now, it's all we have so we want to make the best of it. Susan McFadden, Kathy Kimmerling and I are gladly willing to help people who have not yet tried BBO get started or aid those folks who have been playing online but still have some questions.

Ron Jaegar from the Aiken Bridge Club sent out an e-mail recently regarding players learning, trying out, and getting comfortable with BBO. I'd like to share a portion of that e-mail here:

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*If you are interested in playing but are scared or reluctant to try computer bridge, there is really no need to be. About the only computer skill you need to play on BBO is the ability to drive a mouse. In other words, if you are reading this you have already demonstrated all the skills you*

*need. The BBO program is very intuitive and easy to learn. The program also eliminates things like bids or leads out of turn, revokes, and all the other dumb stuff we do by accident (Unfortunately, it doesn't eliminate the dumb stuff we do on purpose).*

*So, here is what I want you to do. There are three links below. One is to a video by Silvana Morici explaining all things BBO. One is to a page on the ACBL web site that has a bunch of tutorials about playing on BBO.*

*The third link is to the BBO Home Page. In a red box in the middle of the page it says, "Play bridge now". That's the button you would push after you join BBO to get to the log in screen. **DON'T DO THIS!** Instead, scroll down a tad and you will find 8 boxes, each offering a different way to play bridge. These are totally free, and you don't have to join BBO to use them. I would suggest you try playing the matchpoint game first. Who are you playing with? Well, a robot, and your opponents are also robots.*

*If you look at the tutorials first, playing will be a snap. If you just go straight to the BBO Home Page and play with robots, I think you will find it so intuitive that you will be playing right away. When you want to bid, just click on the appropriate boxes in your bidding box. To play a card, click on the card. It's that simple. So, whether you do the tutorials first or after you have decided to join BBO, I think you will find it quite easy to learn.*

**[ALL THINGS BBO by Silvana](#)**

**[ACBL BBO TUTORIALS](#)**

**[BBO HOME PAGE](#)**

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We're going to work very hard this week to ensure that the Thursday afternoon game runs as smoothly as possible. I will be Directing the game along with assistance from an ACBL Tournament Director who will be coaching me on how to make it all work. This will be a learning process for many of us, including myself, so please don't be discouraged if we have some hiccups along the way.

We will send out a reminder notice about the game later this week.  
Hopefully we'll have a huge turnout and we can make this first game a  
big success!

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