

Follow these EBU instructions to join BBOL

<http://www.ebu.co.uk/ebuscore-wiki/bboinstructions>

and login.

The right side of the screen allows you to setup a convention card, record 'friends' so you can find them on the system and see your results.

There are tabs running vertically down the right hand side of the screen.

"People" allows you to search for people by username and save them as friends. You can then see at a glance if they are online or not and if so which table they are playing

"Account" lets you create a convention card for playing with a particular person – who you have added as a friend

"History" summarises the events in which you have played. Clicking on "My table" shows what you and your partner did (for good or bad it records it all !!). If you click on a result and then on "Other tables" it will show what everyone else did with the same hand – enlightening/chastening !!!

Getting Started

The Casual room allows you to try things out in a fairly relaxed manner.

You can create a table and reserve seats for 'friends' so that no-one else jumps in.

Go to "Casual" and under "Find your own game" select "Start a Table" click on each seat and give a username for it. When you have finished all should get an invitation. And can accept it to join the table.

Try sending messages – you can select to send to the table (everyone present), to your partner or to the opponents.

When it is your turn to bid or play a card, the box with your name in has a yellow banner

When you bid you must alert any conventional bid (the bidder alerts but only the opponents can see it) before bidding. The Alert button should appear just below pass/1,2,3,4 dble etc.

You can send messages to:

your partner - between hands ?

the opposition

all at the table

kibitzers (spectators)

To leave a table it's normal to send a message like "sorry g2g" (got to go) then click on your name and leaving the table is one of the options. When it is your turn to bid or play a card the box with your name in has a yellow banner

Competitions

You can search for EBU competitions by selecting "All Tournaments", making sure that the heading is set to "Pending" and putting EBU in the search box.

Double click on the tournament you wish to enter. It will allow you to give your partner's username and if a fee (some are free – should say in the title) is due it will invite you to pay for just yourself or your partner also.

Once you have entered the tournament should be highlighted in yellow – the number of minutes until the start time is shown under "Start". Wait patiently until the screen changes and the first hand is presented.

Make sure you check which position you are playing N/SE/W it changes without warning between rounds and it is possible to get confused as to who is bidding.

A clock appears giving a countdown. At the end of time if you haven't finished the Director will assign a result.

Hence you are encouraged to claim rather than playing out all the cards. Declarer OR a defender can click on the 'hamburger' and click on claim. You may need to give an explanation to cover yourself – e.g. "drawing remaining trumps". It will allow you to claim all or a specified no. of the remaining tricks. The opposition then have to accept or reject – in the latter case it has to be played out.

It's normal to send a greeting to opponents at each round with a summary of your style e.g. "Hi we're playing 12/14 NT & 5 Crd Majors". I normally send it to the "Table" so my partner knows I have done it.

I type that for the first round and then highlight it & copy it (Hold Ctrl & press c) and then the next round put the cursor in the message box and paste it (Ctrl v) for the next opponents.

If the opponents do not have a convention card you can ask what they are playing if they do not offer it – and you can double click on their names to see their profile – that will tell you what they normally play.

At the end of the competition session you will see a screen showing who is still playing. When it is all finished the results should be available.

Click on the "history" tab and then "recent Tournaments" at the top and you can see how you did – normally summarised at the top e.g. 53% Rank 10 (I.e. 10th in your section – larger events are divided into sections).