

BBO Etiquette

The following article is about being fair to your opponents on BBO

Thank you all for playing on BBO as the income is helping to keep Barleylands open. As you may have noticed the numbers have increased recently. This is partly due to players from other clubs joining us and also the service provided by Nicole, Julia and Sarah on the directing team.

There have been a few instances recently where players have failed to "Self Announce" or Self Alert"

You are obliged to announce or alert any bid that is not natural.

North opens 1NT They should type in the HCP range on the explain line and IF it could contain a singleton they should announce that as well.

South now bids responds 2♣. If this is simple Stayman then you type in Stayman. If it is a variation of Stayman asking for 5 card majors then you should Alert AND explain but do not use the name of the convention just type "asking for five card majors"

On another occasion partner opens 1NT and you want to transfer. You know it's a transfer, partner knows it's a transfer but the opponents don't. They may guess it is but you should just type in Hearts or Spades.

Opening bids at the 1 level. If your 1♣/♦ bid contains three or more cards you do not have to say anything. If your 1♥/♠ bid is a 5 card suit you do not have to say anything.

If your 1♣/♦ bid is artificial it has to be alerted and explained.

Opening bids at the 2 level.

You open 2♣ You have an agreement with your partner about what this means but the opponents do not know what it is. There are at least ten different uses of the 2♣ bid. The onus is on you to Alert and Explain the meaning of your bid.

The 2♦ opening also has numerous different meanings. If it is a weak 2 then just type weak on the explain bar. If it is strong in Diamonds only then type strong. For all other meanings you should Alert and Explain

2♥/♠ openings. If they are natural then type in Weak/Intermediate/Strong whichever it is BUT if it is a 2 suiter it has to be alerted and explained.

When you open 2NT you must show the HCP range on the explain bar. All responses to 2NT must be explained or alerted apart from 2N-3N.

BBO Etiquette

Responses to partners opening bid should be alerted if artificial i.e.

A 1♣ opening explained as could be 0/1/2. If the 1♦ response denies a 5 card major then that should be alerted and explained.

After a 2♣ opening bid a 2♦ response should be alerted and explained

Overcalls. A simple overcall in a suit needs no explanation but a 1NT overcall should be explained as 15-17 or 16-18 or whatever it is.

All responses to a 1NT overcall are alertable and should be explained.

Just because you play transfers after partner overcalls 1NT doesn't mean everybody does.

Just to make a point here is an imaginary auction where my partner and I fail to alert or announce anything.

WEST	EAST
1♦	1♥
1NT	2♥
2♠	3♣
3♠	3N
4♣	4♦
4N	5♠
5N	6♣
6♠	

If my partner and I do not alert any of these bids as opponents you will have no idea what is going on and you will not know what to lead

East's first two bids were Hearts.
You are never going to know that a Heart is the killing lead from North

WEST	EAST
1♦ Natural or 18-20 balanced	1♥ Forced relay, nothing about Hearts
1NT 18-20 Balanced	2♥ Transfer to Spades
2♠ Doing as asked	3♣ Slam try Spades and Clubs
3♠ Maximum with 3/4Spades	3NT

Keep going, bid your lowest Ace

4♣ Ace of Clubs	4♦
-----------------	----

Ace of Diamonds

4NT 5 Ace Blackwood	5♣ One of four of the five "Aces"
5♦ Have you got ♠Q?	6♣ Yes and ♣K or the Red Kings
6♠ To play	

♠	KJ93
♥	A98
♦	KQJ6
♣	AJ

♠	QT876
♥	Q3
♦	A
♣	KQT98

BBO Etiquette

The Chat bar and communication.

The chat bar is meant for greeting the opponents and also announcing your basic system. It is not meant for anything during the bidding or play.

The chat bar is also for the end of the round to thank the opponents for the game, to compliment them on their bidding or play and also to apologise if you have been lucky

Let's say the opponents open 1NT and fail to tell you what the range is, just click on the bid and they are asked to explain. If they don't then call the Director using the "Blue Hamburger".

If the opponents bid something and you do not think it is natural then click on the bid and they have to explain or they type in Natural.

You want to ask one of the opponents a question, click on their name bar and a chat line appears. Now you can ask just that one player.

You can converse with either opponent while they are at your table.

You can converse with partner after the final board of each round.

After each hand is over please refrain from putting WPP (well played partner) in the chat box. This is just rubbing the opponent's noses in it if you have had a good result, and quite often you find out later that partner could have made an extra trick! You can talk to your partner at the end of the round by clicking on their name bar but try not to say too much. I find it far better to have a post mortem after the game is over with a cup of tea, or something stronger, when you have all the evidence in front of you.