

Greystones Bridge Centre CLG

How to play bridge online on Bridge Base Online (BBO)

This note will help you to setup and play bridge online on the www.bridgebase.com website. You can play on your own, with a partner, make up a table for four players or even play a Team of Four match with eight players.

You can play using any device that can access the internet – PC, Mac, iPad, tablet and even your smartphone. Access the web site by entering the www.bridgebase.com into the address box of your browser. The instructions in this note are based on using a PC but using another device is similar.

Setup your Username and password

First you need to register a username and password to access BBO. Click on the **Login / Register** button or the **Play bridge now** button. To register your username, click on the **Become a member (free)** button.

You will then have to enter your **username**, your **password**, **confirm** your password and an **email address**. As you key in your username, if it is available, the text beside it will change from **Required** to **Available**. Please remember the username and password you have entered or write it down somewhere safe.

You can enter your real name, your skill level and your country but none of these are obligatory. Any information you enter will be visible to the people you will be playing with. You can always enter or change them later.

Click on little box beside **I agree to the Terms of Service** and a **Register** button will appear. Click on this button to register your username. You can read the terms of service by clicking on the link [Terms of Service](#).

An email will be sent to the address you entered to confirm your registration. There is a link in the email, and you have to click on this to activate your username. If you do not see the email in your inbox, check your spam folder just in case it was delivered there. When you click on the link in the email you will be brought to the website and you will see a message confirming your registration.

Start playing

To start playing, login to the website as before by clicking on the **Login/Register** or **Play bridge now** button.

If you want to play on your own, you can click on the **Solitaire** line in the menu. After that select one of the options to start playing. In this version you will play with three robots you will bid and play with you.

If you want to play against other players, select the **Casual** line in the menu. This will bring up further choices where you can select to play at a random table using the **Take me to the first seat available**. You will be paired up with another BBO member and can start playing immediately.

If you have a partner and want to play together you then click on the **I have a partner. Take us to a table** line. Enter the username of your partner and if he/she is online you will be brought to a table and can start playing. If your partner is not logged in, then you will get an error message and not be taken to a table.

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To start a table of your own and play with four friends, click on **Start a table** in the FIND YOUR OWN GAME section. You need to know the usernames of your friends.

You have to setup the table and decide certain parameters for the game.

Firstly, the scoring format is IMPs by default. You can change this to a different format, for example, Matchpoints.

If you enter a description, this will help your partners to find the table amongst the thousands of tables available in BBO but as you will reserve a seat for them, this is not necessary.

To avoid kibitzers (spectators who can watch your table and chat with the players) click on the two buttons on the lines **Allow Kibitzers** and **Allow Kibitzers to chat to players**.

Now reserve seats for yourself and your friends by clicking on the four seating positions (**North**, **East**, **South** and **West**) in turn and entering the usernames. As your friends login, they will get an invitation to play at your table.

Click on **Start Table – Relaxed game** or **Start Table – Competitive game** to start play. The difference between a relaxed game and a competitive game is that your score will be compared to the score in the Relaxed Bridge Club or to the scores in the Competitive Bridge Club. So, if you want a more challenging game, try a Competitive game. Now the table will be displayed, and you will have to wait for your friends to login.

As they do, they will get an invitation and by selecting Yes, will be taken to your table and the seats will change colour.

You can select the type of deals you will play by selecting the menu (three lines) and the **Deal Options** and then selecting **Random** or using a **Vugraph deal** which is a deal that has been played in a tournament by expert players.

Once your friends are seated, play begins – it is just like playing at a real table with a bidding box displayed when it is your turn to bid. When bidding is complete, play starts with the opening lead. An advantage is that you cannot lead out of turn or renege!

The board number, vulnerability and dealer are displayed along with the number of tricks won by each side. When the hand is finished, the score is displayed. A history of the deals and score is shown in the History tab. This is where you can also see the results from other tables that played the hand.

A chat box at the bottom of the screen can be used to send messages of congratulations to your partner as play progresses. All messages are displayed on the screen, so no cheating by asking for a club lead 😊

If you would like to play a Team of 4 match, you will need two teams, eight players in all, but the procedure is the same except that you start from the **Competitive** menu instead of the **Casual** menu, then select **Team Matches** and then **Create Team Match**