

HDBC On-line - FAQs

Introduction

What online events are we running?

Our **duplicate pairs** events will run on Bridge Base Online (BBO) on **Friday afternoons** at 2pm and **Tuesday evenings** at 7:30pm. **All club members are equally welcome at either event.** This will be a great opportunity to get more of a social mixing between the Friday, Monday and Tuesday players. NB The more 'serious' players are expected to acknowledge the greater range of experience in the room and remember to be considerate and friendly at all times.

How long do the sessions last?

We will initially play 18 boards in two or three board rounds. This will take **around two hours** to complete although the initial sessions may be slightly longer while everyone gets used to being online in a club format.

Who can take part?

Club competitions are open to any of our members who have registered with us to play online. Please note that you should have played at least one or two games of social bridge on BBO and be able to operate on it without undue problems before going in for the club events, otherwise, you risk spoiling the session for everyone else who is participating in the session.

How do I register as an online member of HDBC?

For new registrations, please email Dave [david.j.tookey@gmail.com] with your name & BBO Username.

Do I need a partner?

No, but we will need to find you one before you can enter a club competition. Please email Dave at least 24 hours in advance and he will do his best to pair you up with someone suitable.

Entering a Club Competition:

How do we enter a club pairs session?

Our tournaments will be listed and open for sign-up 2 hours before the start time. **Once our tournament is visible on the list, you can sign up for it. Cut-off time for sign up is 10 minutes before the event starts.**

You enter as a pair and both of you need to be logged in when you do. Just one person does this and the other then gets an invite to be their partner.

Click on **COMPETITIVE** then **ALL TOURNAMENTS** and look for our competition. **Harpenden** will appear in the competition name.

There is a **Search option on the top right of the All Tournaments screen** too to help you locate it. If you type **harp** in the Search box, the list should reduce to a short list containing our event.

Click on the Event Name (not on the vEBU209259 button) to enter yourself and your partner.

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This will cause an invitation to pop-up on your partners screen.

When they accept, there is a final pop-up asking for your EBU number. You do not need to type it in, just press OK on this window and you are entered.

Note that if you are told the event is Private, your username has not been set up in the club's BBO membership list.

Once you've entered you can logoff again (you don't need to say online), but you must be logged in and waiting to play at the start time.

When the event begins, your screen will come to life and you will find yourself at a table opposite your partner and with some opponents to play against.

How much does it cost and where does the money go?

Table money is **\$3 BB per player** which is the minimum chargeable under BBO's virtual club offering. After BBO have taken their 30% hosting fee and the EBU have deducted the UM surcharge (£0.44 per person), the balance goes to the club and is used towards paying the Tournament Director for setting up and running the event.


Does each person need their own supply of Bridge Base dollars?

One of the options when you sign up for a competition is to pay for your partner! So not necessarily is the answer. Note that you cannot easily transfer BB\$ from one person to another.

How do I buy Bridge Base dollars?

Beware that the BB\$ are bought in units of 10. The default purchase amount is \$20 but you can change this if you remember in time. Note that credit cards will attract a cash withdrawal fee, so use a debit card or PayPal if you can.

On a PC, there is a BB\$ button at the top of the screen that takes you to the purchase screen.

On a tablet, you get to this through the menu icon on the top right.  However, you should be aware that credits bought through the iPad app are much more expensive than those bought through the BBO website. This is because you are getting them through the Apple Store which adds on a considerable mark up.

You should get an email receipt once you've completed the purchase.

Do we need a Convention Card?

No. The great majority of our members play Benji Acol with a 12-14 1NT, 4 card majors and weak two's in H & S. If you are playing these, there is no need to state it. However, if you are playing other systems, please alert your opponents at the start of each round through the Table Chat facility and self-alert any odd bids (see below)

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During the Event:

How does the movement operate?

Everyone will start each round at the same time, just as we do in face to face. As soon as the round is completed, the computer automatically whisks you off to sit with new opponents.

How can I tell who our opponents are if they have cryptic usernames?

If you click on the opponent's UserName, a pop-up window will be displayed showing some profile information for that person. As long as they have entered their name in their profile it will appear there. If not use the Table Chat facility (see below).

Members are requested to complete their profile with their names to facilitate this.

The club's membership list also shows BBO usernames.

Can I chat with partner and opponents?

Towards the bottom of the screen is a Messaging area where you can type messages to the Table or Opposition. Please use that. You will need to change it from Kibitzers if they are the default destination group.

Needless to say, you are not allowed to have supplementary conversations going on with just your partner!

How do I alert unusual bids?

On BBO you alert your own bids not partners. Please try to do this if you bid is likely to mislead the opponents. To see how self-alerting is done, refer to the BBO Quick Start video [Click here..](#)

Note that your partner will not see that you have alerted or your explanation of what the bid means.

How do I ask the opponents what one of their bids means?

If you click on the bid in question when it's your turn to bid, the opponent will get a pop-up window asking them to type in a description. You will then see his explanation. Again, **the opponent who made the bid is the one who explains it.**

What if I click the wrong card or bid?

If it's a genuine mistake (not a change of mind), you can ask the opponents to let you UnDo it. We need to be a little generous in this regard, certainly to begin with.

The UnDo option is found through the blue menu button top left.

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How long do we have to play a hand and what happens if we haven't finished in time?

There will be a time-limit for the round of 8 minutes per board i.e. 16 minutes for 2 board rounds, 24 for 3 etc.

If you are still in play when the time expires, your board will be cancelled and the system will give each pair a 50% score. If you want that reviewed, please alert the TD (see below) and he will consider revising it to something that the score was most likely going to be.

What if there are problems during the play?

Alert the TD. That's what he's there for! See below.

Can we quit before the end?

Rather like playing at the club, if you don't play the whole session, some people will be left sitting rounds out and the movement is somewhat compromised. Please try to stay for the whole event.

How do I call the Tournament Director?

Use the blue menu (top left).

What does the Tournament Director do?

The TD will set up the competition, monitor play and intercede on any problems. At the end, he will process / publish the Results for us.

Results

How are the results published?

The TD will upload them to the club's website as soon as he has processed them into a suitable format.

Do these sessions affect NGS ratings?

No. The results are submitted to the EBU but they do not impact NGS ratings.