

Hatfield Heath Bridge Club shall be joining with Harlow Knights bridge club who have set up a Friday night bridge club starting on 22nd May at 7.30pm, and should be finished well before 10pm.

Games will be played on BridgeBaseOnline (BBO) and are arranged in conjunction with the EBU, who provide a Tournament Director. For us, this will be Gary Conrad, who many of you will know. Games will be match pointed, and are eligible for masterpoints and count towards NGS gradings, just like a 'real' face to face game.

We will play 18 boards in timed rounds of 2 or 3 boards. Everyone plays the same boards at the same time, so once all pairs have finished you have a complete picture of how you and all the other pairs did on that board. Your real-time percentages for each board and the session will be visible as you go along, and the full results will be posted on both websites after the match, with the usual analysis available.

Table money will be \$3 – that's a little under £2.50 at current exchange rates. You can buy credits online on the BBO website, and the table money is deducted from your account when you play. It is in dollars because it's an American website, but you can buy them with any credit or debit card, or by PayPal. We suggest you don't use a phone app to pay, as this is then subject to a surcharge. The table money goes part to the club, part to the EBU and part retained by BBO. This helps keep the club and the EBU afloat, because all our other income has ceased.

There are detailed instructions on our website at <https://www.bridgewebs.com/hatfieldheath/> and on Harlow Knights website <https://www.bridgewebs.com/harlowknightsbc/>, together with links to some other resources which may help if you are new to BBO. This is a summary of what to do if you want to play -

- Register on BBO (it's free to register), and let us know your username and EBU number. You only need to do this once.
- Find a partner, or contact us if you need help with this.
- Buy some BBO\$ online. We suggest \$10 to begin with.
- Tell Kay at harlowknightsbridgeclub@gmail.com that you plan to play, no later than the day before
- On the day, register to play in the session by logging on *at the same time as your partner* up to 2 hours before the session, and linking up as a pair.
- Make sure you're online 10 mins before play starts, check you haven't been logged out in the meanwhile.
- When the session starts you will automatically be taken to your first table.

It really is easy - even if you have never played online before, it won't take you long to get the hang of it. However, we do suggest that if you haven't played online before, that you register with BBO and have a practice game before playing in a club session. If you want help with that, please give me a call.

Please do come and play online, and support the clubs. What's important is that we are playing against our club friends, and that we all have fun. And doing it at a social distance!

Here are some other resources which may help if you are new to BBO

<https://blog.bridgebase.com/2020/03/09/new-to-bridge-base-online/>

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