

A guide to playing Bridge on Bridgebase Online (BBO)

Playing Bridge online is different to playing face to face in a number of ways. This short guide to BBO gives information on how to

1. Greet your opps and give them a summary of your system,
2. Alert and announce conventional bids,
3. Ask for an undo, and
4. Claim or concede tricks.

This guide also includes links to some videos that help to explain the above. If clicking on the links doesn't work, try copying and pasting them into your browser. Please note that you may have to sit through a short advert first, although you can usually 'Skip Ads' after a few seconds.

1. Greeting your opps and giving them a summary of your system

At the beginning of each round you should use the 'Chat' option on BBO to greet your opps and give them a summary of your system. Something along the lines of, 'Hello opps, we play weak NT and three weak Twos' or is fine, although you can write more if you wish. To avoid the need to write this out every time you change opps, you can use the 'Chat Manager' option.

Click here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxipNlxPNc> to see a short video explaining how this works.

2. Alert and announce conventional bids

Unlike in face-to-face Bridge where you would expect your partner to alert any conventional bid you make, on BBO it is **you** who must alert all bids that aren't natural. Even if you have mentioned in your summary that you use a particular convention, you should still alert it when you use it. Only the opps will see your explanation and your partner will not even know that you have alerted a bid.

You should never use the 'Chat' option to explain a bid if your explanation is going 'to the table' as you will be giving your partner unauthorised information. Opening bids that you should alert include 1NT (give a point count) and all 2-level openings. Other bids you should alert include conventions such as Landy, Michael's, Unusual NT, etc. If in doubt, alert.

If the opps make a bid and you are unsure of it's meaning, you can click on the bid and they will be asked to give an explanation. Only you and your partner, not the partner of the opponent giving the explanation, will see this.

Click here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2UFOOVR5P8> to see a short video explaining how to alert on BBO.

3. Ask for an undo

In online EBU games such as ours, 'undos' are allowed for mechanical errors **during bidding only** and never during play. You should only ask for an undo if you have mis clicked, not if you have changed your mind after making a bid. When you click the undo button after making a bid, your opps will be given an option to either 'accept' or 'decline' your request. If they accept, you should then make your intended bid and it would be good manners to say 'thank you' in the chat area. If they decline, please call the director immediately. If you frequently mis click during bidding and/or play, you can change your set up to include the double-click option where you click on a bid or card, then click a second time to confirm before playing. You can make these changes by going to 'Account', then 'Settings', then in 'Playing' click on 'Confirm Bids' and/or 'Confirm Cards'.

The video here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQNH99Ksrrs&list=PL9lOXJf9R9em-kAdxhUGxQniqZJm1PpCl&index=19> gives some information on using the 'Chat' option, asking for an 'undo', and claiming and conceding tricks (see below).

4. Claim or concede tricks

In online Bridge, claiming (or conceding) tricks once you are sure of how many more you are going to make is encouraged. Once you have made your claim, the opps will be able to see all remaining cards and will be given the option to 'accept' or 'decline' your claim. If they accept, the game will finish. If they decline, a message will appear saying 'claim rejected' and you should immediately continue with play. There is no need to call the director. Bear in mind that many players find it difficult to follow a claim, especially if made early, and you should not be upset if a claim is rejected. Your opps may well concede once they have 'seen' how the hand will play out.

The video above (in 3.) gives a quick introduction to using the 'Chat' option, then discusses using 'undos', followed by a section on claiming and conceding (see below).

If you would like more information or further help with any of the above or any other aspects of playing on BBO please get in touch by emailing brauntonbridgeclub@gmail.com or calling Jacqui on 07734 219859.