

THE NOTTINGHAM BRIDGE CLUB ON BRIDGE BASE ONLINE

JOINING BRIDGE BASE ONLINE (BBO)

If you are not already a member of BBO, then to play on BBO, you first have to register as a member. This is free. Either use an app or go to www.bridgebase.com in your web browser and register. You will need to choose a user name, by which you'll be known when you play. You need to email this to me – at the address below – so that you can be admitted to our private drives (or tournaments as they are known on BBO).

For help on registering with BBO see this [guide](#).

If you haven't played on BBO before, try out the Solitaire or other free tournaments to get a feel for it. If you have played before, then please be easy-going with everyone else; the main aim is to regain the social benefits of Club drives rather than cater for expert bridge players! But, as in face-to-face drives, please do your socialising after you have played your boards, so that you don't hold up others. If you find yourself waiting for others, enjoy the extra time to socialise with your opponents. Enjoy and have fun!

CLUB TOURNAMENTS

Times when club tournaments are being held will be announced on the Club Facebook group. The tournaments are free. They are also private. I need to know your BBO username so that I can include you on the list of authorised players. I've also decided to ban kibizers, so nobody will be watching you play.

Once you are on my list of registered players, you won't need to contact me again. You just turn up to play.

You can register to play in the tournament any time from about two hours before the start time. Don't leave it too late, or you may miss out! Log onto BBO, click on the "Play" icon, and then on "Competitive" underneath "Play or Watch Bridge". Then click on "Free Tournaments" underneath "Tournaments". Click on the "Pending" tab at the top of the page. You will then see a list of forthcoming tournaments in chronological order of when the start.

Our tournaments will be called "The Nottingham Bridge Club" and will first appear in the list about two hours before they are scheduled to start. Click on that "The Nottingham Bridge Club" in the list, to register that you are going to play in the tournament. If you already know who you are going to play with, enter their BBO username and click on "Invite". If you want to play, but don't already have a partner, click on the "Partnership Desk" tab where you can either invite someone who is already there to be your partner, or enter your name as looking for a partner. People have already been successful in finding partners this way. (There is an option to pay to play with a robot, but the robots play 5 card majors and two over one, so won't be everybody's choice). There is also a [guide](#) suggesting how to find partners.

If you have registered with a partner, you will find yourself playing as soon as the tournament starts. Everybody is playing the same boards at the same time, so you will have lots of others to compare yourself against. There is a [guide](#) on how to look at your results, and replay the hands.

I have no control over whether people play north-south or east-west, or many other things. If you are not "sitting" at the table when the tournament starts, you will not play – that's the way BBO works. We have known people lose their internet connection at the crucial moment and fail to play. Sorry, I can't add in an extra table after the start and I won't necessarily even be aware that someone has dropped out at the last moment.

SITOUTS AND DROPOUTS

The tournament cannot run with a half table. If, at the start of the tournament, you find yourself at a table with sitouts, there will be a delay while I replace them with real people. During that delay, please do not bid until I tell you that you may.

Where possible I will replace them with volunteers who have offered to run the risk that they will not play. Otherwise, it will be random BBO players. They are. Please help by volunteering to be on standby to fill in these sitouts, running the risk of not playing if we start with a full number of tables.

If you lose connection during the tournament, please log back in to BBO as soon as possible. If you have been disconnected for some time, I will have had to replace you with a random person, and you may not be returned to your seat. Send me a private chat (I'm D_H_D) to let me know you are back online and I will return you to your seat at an appropriate time. If the replacement is a truly random person, they may be playing the American system of five card majors, and may not take kindly to our speed of play. In that case, I will most likely make an appeal asking if anybody knows someone who could join in to replace the dropout.

PLAYING

Once the tournament starts you will see that there is a "Chat" button. When you click on this you can type in messages. There are various options for where your message is sent, please ensure that it is set to TABLE. Everyone is playing the same boards at the same time, so be careful not to talk to the Tournament about the boards.

At the start of a round, do introduce yourself to your opponents and tell them what system you are playing.

The (really) big difference in playing online is that you alert your own bids. Even if you already know this, it is ESSENTIAL that you watch [this video](#) to make sure you are alerting the same way as everyone else.

Some common abbreviations in chat are: glp – good luck partner; typ – thank you partner; wdo – well done opponents; wpp – well played partner; and brb – be right back.

The end of the tournament is rather abrupt, but you can visit your History to see how you did in detail. There is a [guide](#) to getting the most out of you analysis.

PROBLEMS AND WHAT TO DO

- At times you may find yourself sitting waiting for someone to do something, not realising that you have dropped out of BBO. To check whether you are still logged in, try clicking on an opponent's name. If the chat dialogue does not open, then you are logged out and need to log back in again.
- At times, your clicks may not seem to be working. Try logging out and in again. You should return to the table. If not, chat to me i.e. D_H_D.
- Most of the usual errors at a table, e.g .revokes, bids out of turn are (theoretically) impossible on BBO. But if you have a situation that needs a director – which could be a prolonged absence by a player at your table - click on the three bars in the blue box and click on the option to call the director.