

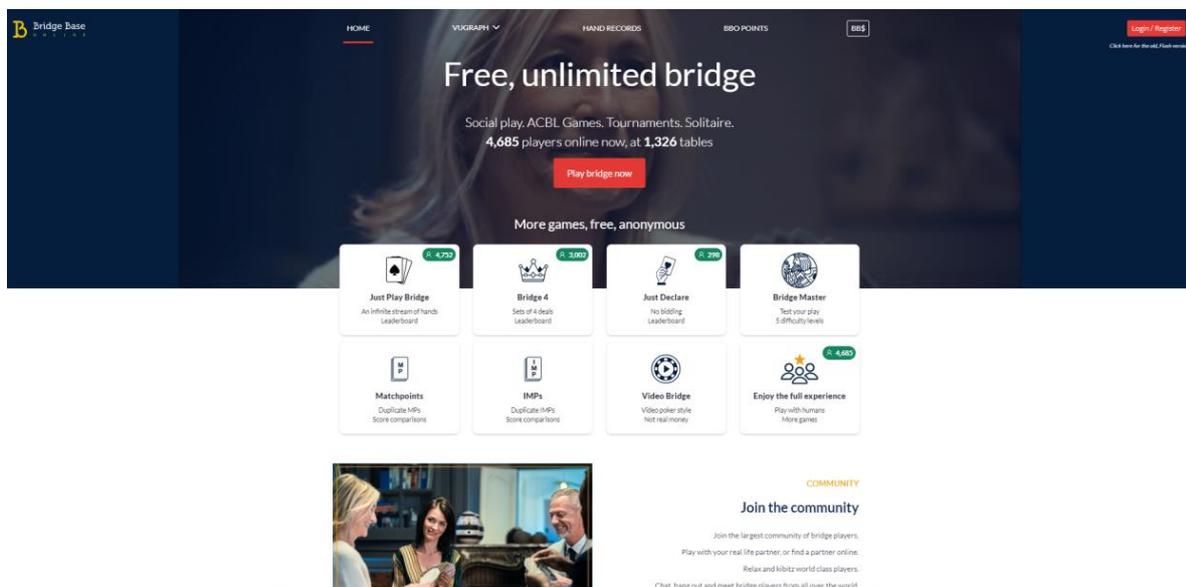
Registering to play Bridge Base Online

Do not be daunted by the length of this document. Read through it all first and then begin the process. We'll have you playing bridge in no time.

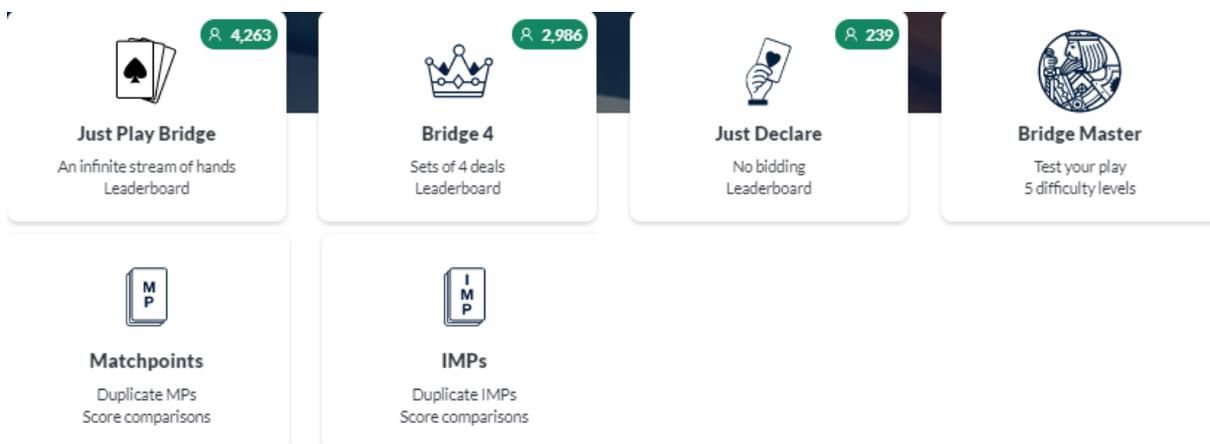
Here goes:

Open Bridge Base Online website bridgebase.com

The following screen will appear:



You do not need to register to use any of the practice activities accessed via these white buttons



It is worth practising to become familiar with the way BBO operates. The big disadvantage is that you cannot employ systems you may be familiar with during these practice sessions.

However, when you begin to play in one of the Nowra online sessions, you can use any system you want.

You will be playing against robots which never lose count of the cards and always seem to defeat finesses.

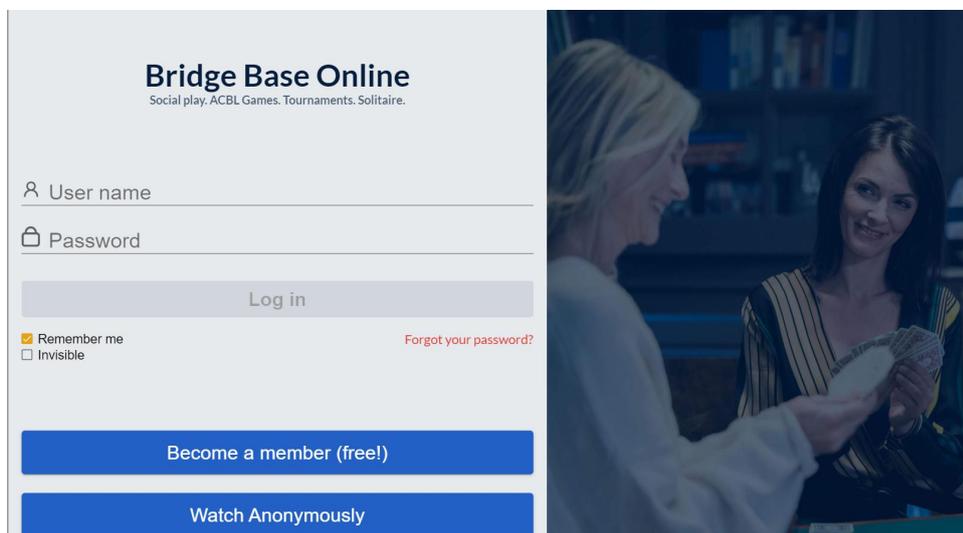
(When we begin our competitions, we will not allow robots to partner players.)

If you wish to play tournaments (sessions) or casual matches, you need to register.

In the top right hand corner there is a red "Login/Register" button.

Use your mouse to push the "Login/Register" button.

The following screen appears:



Use your mouse to click on the blue "Become a member (free!)" button

The following screen appears:

The screenshot shows a registration form with the following fields and options:

- User name** (Required): Max 10 characters, 0/10
- Password** (Required): Max 10 characters, 0/10
- Confirm password** (Required): Max 10 characters, 0/10
- E-mail address** (Required):
- Real name**
- ACBL Number**
- Other**
- Skill level**: Private (selected), Novice, Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert, World Class
- Country/Region**: Northern Ireland, Norway, Oman, Other (selected), Pakistan, Palestine, Panama
- I agree to the [Terms of Service](#)
- Register** button (disabled)
- Help** and **Privacy policy** links at the bottom.

Complete your details and click on the “Terms of Service” box.

The “Register” button lights up.

Use your mouse to select the “Register” button.

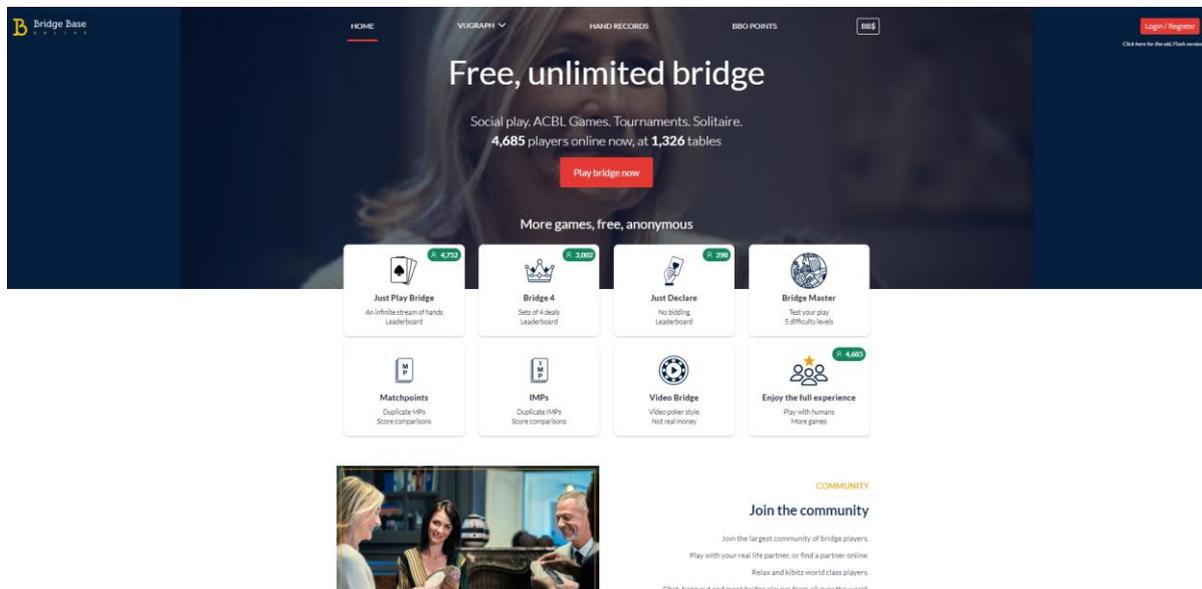
You will receive an email from BBO requiring you to activate your account.

You’re set to go.

Now that you are registered!

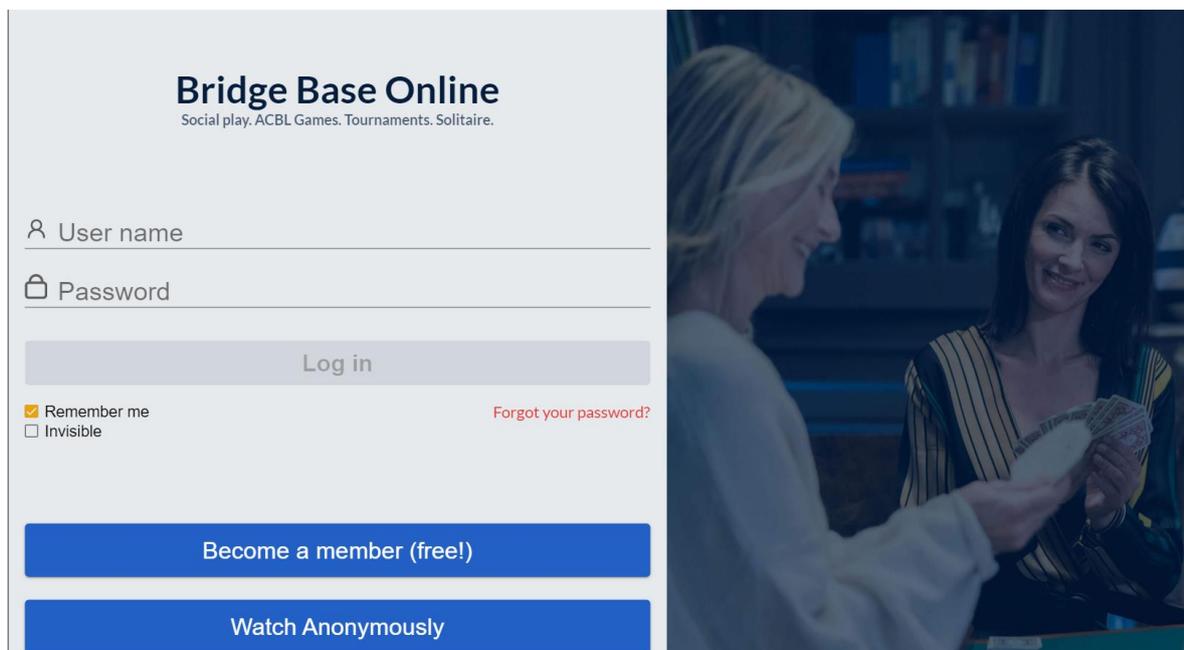
Open Bridge Base Online website bridgebase.com

The following screen will appear:



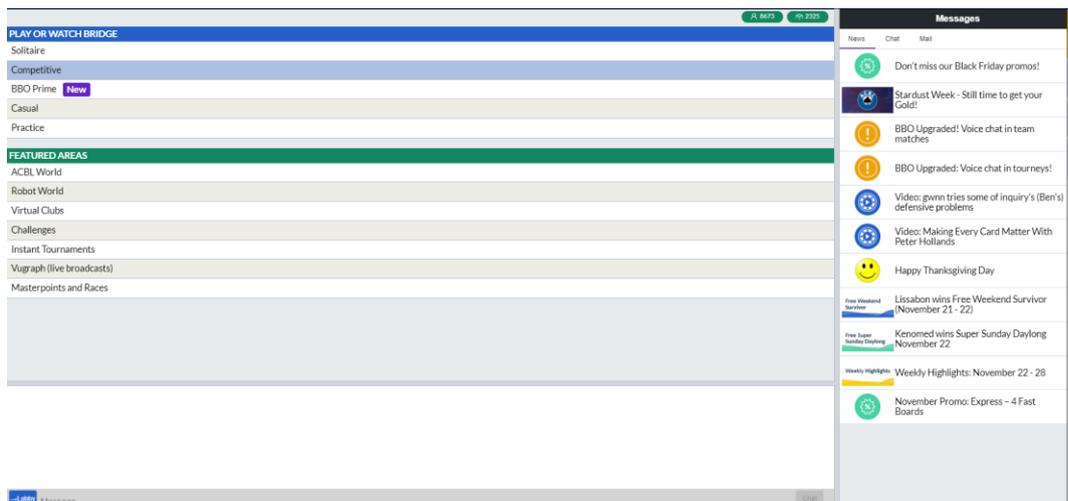
Use your mouse to push the "Login/Register" button.

This screen appears:



Enter your registered User name and Password and click on "Log in".

This screen appears:



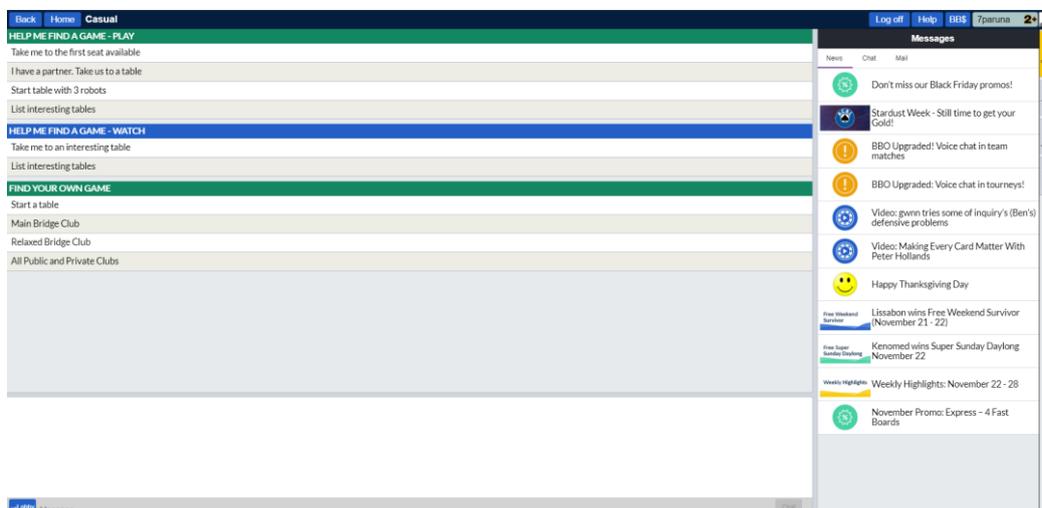
I am only going to look at two options at this stage: “Casual” in the “Play or watch Bridge” section and “Virtual Clubs” in the “Featured Areas” section.

“**Virtual Clubs**” is where you find Tournaments (Sessions) in which to participate and accrue Master Points. Click on “Australia” and you will get a list of sessions which are set to begin within the next two hours.

There are two things you need to be aware of: There is a cost associated with playing in tournaments and, despite your wish to join a game, the club may have restrictions on who is able to enter. Don’t be offended – it is not (usually) personal.

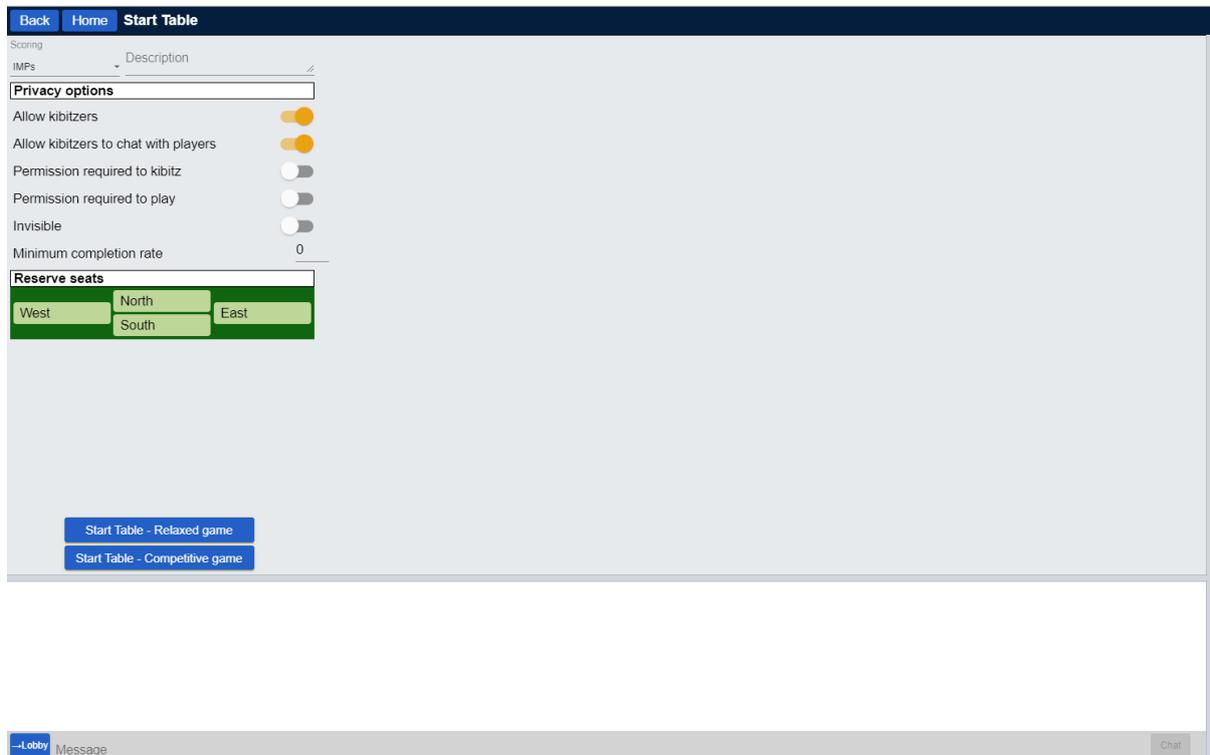
“**Casual**” is the area on which I wish to concentrate for the moment.

Click on “Casual” and the following screen appears:



In the lower half of the screen is a section named “Find your own game” which includes an option to “Start a table”.

When selected, this screen appears:



Use the “Reserve seats” box by clicking on “North”, “South” etc to enter the Registered names of people with whom you would like to play. Obviously, you will have already been in contact to gauge their interest. Different platforms can act differently. For example, sometimes a player using an ipad cannot see their invitation to join the table. In that situation, get everyone else to log out and ask the ipad player to start the session and issue the invitations to the other players. You’ll need to know each other’s usernames.

(As members register, I will publish a list on the Club’s website.)

I have absolutely no idea of the difference between a “Relaxed” and “Competitive” game.

During Casual games you can employ your familiar systems.

There is, however, one major protocol, relating to “Alerts”, which is entirely different to face to face competition.

Responsibility for alerts rests with the bidder, not their partner.

Each time it is your turn to bid an “Alert” box appears along with your bid choices. If relevant, you complete Alert details before selecting your bid. The alert is broadcast to your opponents but not your partner.

A second protocol is to allow “Undo” requests.

When you first start playing it is very easy, for example, to click on the diamond button rather than the heart button which is right next door. To give yourself some breathing room, you can, once logged on, go to the Accounts tab, select settings and click on the “Confirm bids” toggle. This will make more sense once you used BBO a little.

Conversations are possible during an event.

At the bottom of any page you will see a box such as this. (It may or may not say “Lobby”.)



During a game, you can change the blue box to “Table” so that messages can be read by all players at the table, “Private”, where you can converse with a nominated person but BBO will not allow private messages between players during a competition round, or “Tournament” which, during competitions seems to contact the Director.

Messages to “Tournament” show up on everyone’s screens and can be a distraction. To contact the director, there are two options. Click on the blue and white “hamburger”, an icon consisting of blue and white lines that looks like a hamburger. Options will appear such as request an undo and call the director. A second alternative is to send a private message to, in Nowra’s case, vABF2235. Please note that internet dropouts are very common and the director will receive countless of these each session. If your partner drops out, wait a minute or two before contacting the director.

(A very recent development is for “Voice chat” at the table. I am not yet familiar with this so will not implement it at the moment.)

Ready to play competitive sessions?

Before you are able to play in competitions you must purchase BBO dollars.

When you log in you will see, in the top right hand corner of any screen, a button marked "BB\$". BB\$ have equivalent value to US currency and are sold in units of 10, 20, 30 etc.

In general, you will pay \$3BB to play a competitive session of 24 boards.

Two words of caution: BB\$ are not refundable and, make sure that you use a computer to make your purchase. If you use a smart phone the cost is very considerably higher.

You can pay for BB\$ using a credit card or Paypal. When you first register, WRITE your username and password down because when you later buy BB\$, if you can't remember either your username or password, you can't access your BB\$ to pay for sessions and that money is lost.

When do we start?

You can start practising immediately and you can start playing casual games as soon as you have other willing players' details.

We are intending to kick off Club sessions on Tuesday evenings and, perhaps, Friday afternoons. When we have more Directors trained up we can introduce Monday mornings as well.

Please note that if you intend to play in our competitive online sessions, you need to register your BBO username with the ABF. To do so go to <https://www.abfevents.com.au/forms/signup/> . Failure to do this will mean that you will not receive your masterpoints each month. When you do play a competitive session and look at the results and see that you have earned masterpoints, the BBO masterpoints awarded are very generous. Don't get too excited, the ABF will use the formula we are familiar with and only award about one third of what BBO shows.

If you wish to look back at your results and study the travelers and replay the hands, go to bridgebase.com/myhands and login. Select how far back you want

to look and the results will be there. I've found that the bridgewebs site allows me to upload BBO results in their format but won't show the bridgewebs format until the following day because of the date difference between Australia and the USA.

If the club is using an include/exclude list, then players must have submitted their usernames for inclusion before the competitive session is set up. They only have to do so once.

Questions?

I'm sure you will have them but most will be resolved as you become familiar with the BBO system.

If something is really bothering you, I'll do my best to help if you email me on pcourtne@bigpond.net.au.