

## Feedback on OBA online bridge

Thank you all for taking part in the online event on Sunday 26 April. I hope you enjoyed it and that we will see you again on a Thursday evening. Additional thanks go to those who gave feedback. As a result, here are some answers to some commonly raised queries/comments. If you have comments/questions that are not addressed, please email me (kathy\_talbot@hotmail.co.uk).

### Convention Cards

There is a facility on BBO to write a convention card. But most of us are new to BBO and do not have one. We did ask that players give a short description of their methods at the start of each round. You can do this easily and quickly if you cut and paste from an open document. I myself keep a document open with useful statements on that I can cut and paste. For example "Hi ops. Strong club, 4cM, 1♦ may be short, variable NT, Multi 2♦; 2♥/♠ weak and 2 suited." It looks like a lot of typing but it's just cut and paste. Then later "Leads: 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>. A/Q asks reverse attitude, K asks reverse count, strong 10s in NT. Smith Peters. Signals: Reverse attitude, Reverse count. Discards: Rev att".

If you want to write a Convention Card in BBO, on the right of the screen, click "Account" then at the top of the right, click "Convention Cards". You can edit and save but I have not yet managed to display one myself!

### Do remember to self-alert

If your bid is conventional, click on "Alert" and write an explanation. This is a great way to alert as only your opponents can see it. Even if you think it will take too long, click alert and make your bid. You can then click on the box and add your explanation while others are bidding. Again, you can keep common lengthy explanations ready to cut and paste.

### Do call the director

Do call the director. She can help with solve problems caused by slow play or lack of connection. Although the director is always watching for disconnects, she will not always notice all if dealing with something else.

### Timing

EBU tournaments are set strictly to 7 minutes per board. At the end of the round, the next round starts automatically. Some players have said that this is too short a time. For this first session, we stuck with the EBU guidelines. It is possible that as a County we might change the timing in future if it seems right. I think that as players become more familiar with the BBO environment, speed of play will be easier. It is possible that as a County we might change the timing in future. But this is unlikely, given that a large majority of tables finished within the time every round. The director can watch for a particularly slow board and add a couple of minutes to an individual round.

### Timing consequences

One of the most disconcerting things the new competitive BBO player experiences is to be whisked away from one table and landed on another whilst in the middle of a hand. This is especially irritating if you're on for a good board and get given an average. I was asked if players could take advantage of this, playing slowly to negate the effects of a bad board. However, although initially assigned an average, there is a "Bot" that looks at the averages and assigns a score. These are normally very sensible, looking at the play so far and predicting the number of tricks made. If you are unhappy with an assigned score, call the director. Sometimes the Bot cannot assign a score but one of the tasks the director performs is to continually monitor for averages and assign a score where this has not been done.

If your opponents are playing too slowly, call the director.