

PDBC GUIDE TO REALBRIDGE SESSIONS

(revised 12_08_23)

This guide should be read in conjunction with the HOW TO? Player Section of the Realbridge web site – click [REALBRIDGE](#) to access. Note that although the free RealBridge taster sessions on the WHERE CAN I PLAY section are good at providing an introduction, they can be very heavily subscribed and the tutor (Shireen) often has lots of queries to deal with.

All players must have an operational camera, headphones / speakers and microphone.

Inexpensive webcams with inbuilt microphone are available on line. A stylus is very beneficial if you have a tablet or ipad. If you experience problems with your camera or other players report an echo when you play, then please contact RB Support on 0794 232 2209 or 0747 555 7651 who are very helpful. Players who frequently experience problems with their camera or microphone will not be allowed to play until the problems are resolved.

In the light of any feedback or changes to RealBridge this Guide will be updated as necessary so you should revisit this page from time to time. "Click" and "Tap" are synonymous in this Guide.

At the end of this guide are some screenshots and further explanation of buttons / controls.

FIRST PRINCIPLE!

PDBC sessions are organised so that the inexperienced and experienced can play and even partner each other. Everyone must be friendly and we hope that calls to the Director to rule on the Laws are infrequent but of course should this be needed, please do so in a very amicable way with your opponents. Please be very tolerant of improvers who make innocent mistakes; misbid or fail to alert. We are here to play a GAME!! Live and let live.

Entry Fees

Members fees are £1-25 per player per session; visitors are £2-50. We ask that members pay in advance say £5-00 (for 4 sessions) or £10-00 (8 sessions). Players can keep track of how many games they have played by going to the Home page of the PDBC web site and selecting the relevant LH Menu option. Alternatively players can visit the [MY EBU](#) web site. Entry Fees should be paid to:

Payee: Pershore Duplicate Bridge Club Sort Code: 09-01-55 Account: 11652089
Reference: RealBridge. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU QUOTE REFERENCE "RB" + your EBU number.

By keeping the fees so low, and asking for payment in this way we are trying to really assist members. In return we ask all members to use on line banking. If you are unwilling to do this then please contact Mark, the Treasurer, to discuss.

Visitors are permitted to play four times before they will be asked to become full club members. Club Membership costs £5-00 per year or part year. Contact Alan for more information if you are interested in joining.

Joining a Session

Each session will feature on the HOME page of the PDBC web site and you will need to click "RealBridge Login" from the link shown. This will take you to the RealBridge login page where you will need to type in your name **exactly as you are known to the EBU** eg Alan Boyes and also input your EBU number. **Please make sure these entries are accurate as they are used for the club web site and EBU submissions.** If you do not know your EBU number, or do not have one, then please email via our contact section of web site (preferably) or phone me asap. You will then enter the Lobby area of RealBridge where you will see a number of tables for you to sit at. If you have pre-arranged to play with a partner please wait in the Lobby until you are both present and then join a table at the lowest available table number.

Will there be a host?

Initially no, but we will keep this under review. Players should make their own partnership arrangements prior to joining a session. Members are encouraged to contact other members who might be willing or able to play – use the Members Only section of the web site for contact details. Check also the RH Calendar box and click ? **partner** to see who needs a partner. PLEASE be willing to play with ANYONE. RealBridge does accommodate half tables. Should you wish to come on the off-chance of finding a player to partner you, login to the session and wait in the Lobby - do not take a seat but write a chat message saying you are seeking a partner.

What Devices does RealBridge run on?

Any laptop, desktop computer or tablet that supports video calling from a web browser – see below. Mobile phones are not recommended.

Do I need a large(r) display?

No, and most players manage perfectly well - but you will find it easier to use a stylus rather than your finger to tap the bids / cards if you use a tablet or i-pad. Another option is to enlarge your screen display by linking the display of your tablet / ipad to your TV; either by cable such as USB / HDMI etc or by linking both devices using Bluetooth. At login there is an option for High Contrast for those with impaired sight or colour blind. During play you may wish to experiment using Simplified Cards – see Settings cog – as many feel this view of the cards is much easier.

What browser can I use?

Firstly, ensure your computer has all its updates. RealBridge recommend using Google Chrome. On an Apple ipad if you have problems using Chrome for video then you must use the Safari browser. In Safari there is a menu item "Safari > Settings for the website . . ." In that window, select "Allow all auto-play media" and set the camera and microphone permission to "Allow". If you have Macbook or iMac that has been upgraded to "Big Sur" do not use Safari – use Chrome. All that being said, there is increasing evidence that Chrome works best on Apple products rather than Safari.

How to check if camera and microphone are working?

Make sure your PC / tablet etc settings are set to allow apps to access your camera and microphone and also visit [Realbridge Camera Test](#) and follow the instructions to troubleshoot video and audio issues. Also, test out your own speakers / headset prior to play.

What to do if you have a weak or intermittent Wi-Fi connection or screen freezes

- Use the redial button if you notice **video or audio** problems. It is the pair of curved arrows near your name, to the right of the eye. It is recommended you do this every hour.
- Make sure all internal doors – especially if they are glazed – are fully open between you and the router / hub.
- Can you cable / “hard wire” your PC / laptop etc to your router via the Ethernet connection? If so that should help; or move nearer to the router?
- Turn off any non RealBridge apps and pause any auto update settings (eg Windows) for the duration.
- Turn off your camera, incoming or outgoing video or both by clicking on the eye symbol to the right of your name.
- If your screen freezes and clicking the curved redial arrows inside the RB display (see above) does not sort the problem then click the **browser** refresh curved arrows, **outside the RB display** – usually at the very top of your screen
- As a last resort exit RealBridge completely and log back in and take your seat again.

What to do if the sound of a player is too loud?

Click on the name of the player and adjust the slider to correct the volume. Please ensure you have no background noise (eg washing up; playing a musical instrument, etc whilst you are playing as these sounds get amplified!)

How many rounds / boards will there be in a session? And how long will a session be?

As with F2F bridge this depends to a certain extent on how many players there are and the movement that can be played. However, Directors will aim to set the number of boards at between 21 and 26 wherever possible and 2 or 3 boards per round. You may care to note that on each round everyone will play the same boards. A time of around 6½ minutes per board will usually be set. The director may extend this a little if a table is only *slightly* behind and move players who can move to another table - just as in a real F2F session. Between rounds the ranking list, for now, will be displayed. (Along with other clubs we have requested this be changed to allow the ranking list to only be shown at the end of the session)

After the session

There will be ten minutes for you to have a chat to your friends at the table or even go to the lobby and then sit at another table if there is a spare seat and talk there. **When you leave the RB session please ensure you completely close and exit by clicking the X in the top right hand corner of the screen.**

Viewing Results

Results are best viewed on the PDBC web site. Click on "Results".

From the ranking list click your name; click **PLAY** on relevant board against your pair number. This takes you into BSOL (SOLVER); select the polarity you sat at and whether you played in suit or NT contract, ignoring the theoretical makeable contracts. Click the **PLAY** button and click the * card which was the card actually played (or any other card if you wish to); the small numbers on the cards show what card should be played to make the maximum number of tricks, both as defender and declarer. Selecting HANDS from the ranking list screen gives you access to download a print-out A4 set of hand records. Further statistical data and analysis is available in BSOL. For a day or so after the event you will also be able to log into the RB session by clicking the link and viewing the scores etc from there.

Miscellaneous

We recommend that system updates (eg Windows or Apple) are paused / suspended for the duration of RB sessions.

Undo's will be allowed. Please do not abuse the undo feature – it is **not** to be used for a change of mind; only a genuine misclick.

Alerting & Announcing RB follows the normal Laws, same as playing at a club, so:

PARTNER alerts or announces. Announce the range of your NT; Stayman; transfers; weak 2's. Alert other conventional bids eg cue bids; opening 2C etc.

WHEN IT IS YOUR TURN TO BID you may ask the player who alerted (the partner of the player who made a bid) for more information. ALL other players remain SILENT; even if the information given is wrong. If you are asked to explain your partners bid and don't know what it meant or are unsure then say so - do NOT surmise or guess or say things like "I am going to assume it means xyz"

As declarer, or dummy, before a card is led you must tell opponents if any information given by your side is wrong or if one of you has failed to alert. As a defender, you keep quiet until the board has been played and then say.

Call the director if you feel the incorrect explanation, or failure to alert has damaged your side.

The **STOP** card is system generated for all jump bids and there is a pause of 10 seconds before LHO can bid.

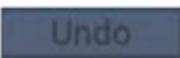
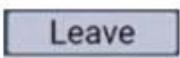
Bidding box will only appear when it is your turn to bid.

CLAIMS: Only claims made by use of the CLAIM button are acceptable, and as in F2F bridge, both defenders must accept for the claim to be ratified.

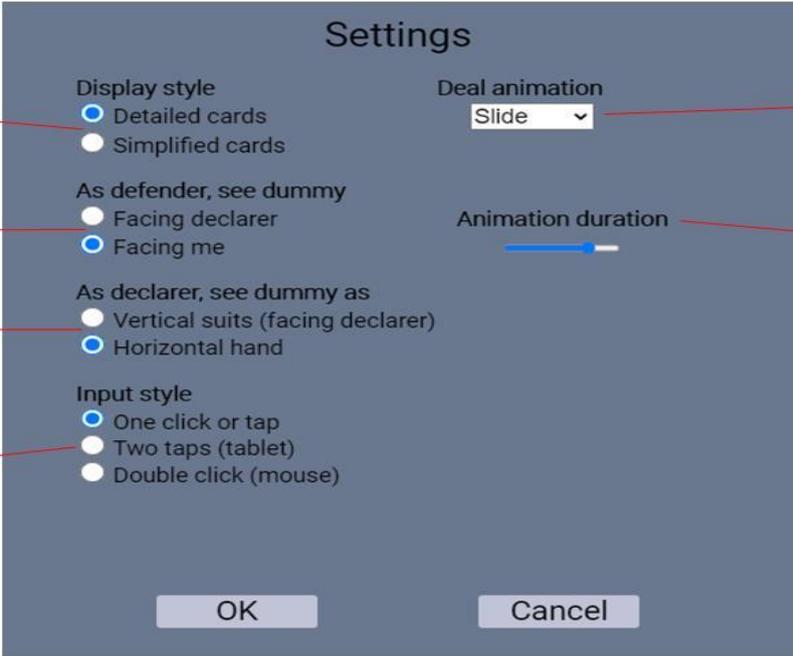
UPGRADES: Improvements to RealBridge will occur from time to time and it is possible that occasionally you will notice some minor changes. Important changes will be updated on this Guide. Please note that RB now broadcasts video and commentary of major tournaments – equivalent to BBO Vu-Graph. Go to Why RealBridge on the RB home page and select spectators.

ETIQUETTE: Players are reminded that PDBC adheres to the Best Behaviour code of practice. As in F2F bridge please refrain from comments, gestures and mannerisms during bidding and play! I am sure that everyone will refrain from any rudeness or aggressive behaviour – we do not tolerate it at the club when F2F and it will not be tolerated on line. Call the director immediately if there is any problem or contact me after the event please.

Buttons and Controls – meaning of symbols

	This turns your camera off or on		This turns your microphone off or on
	This turns off or on your view of everybody else (they can still see you)		This redials all of your video and sound - do this every hour.
	This lets you chat to your table. If you are on a PC, the chat bar is already displayed, since the window is wider/bigger.		This lets you adjust a player's volume for just you (nobody else is affected).
	Use this button to ask the opponents to let you change your bid or play		Calls for a Director
	Sends you back to the lobby (the place where you first arrived, you can then rejoin your table or join another one.		This settings icon allows you to choose options such as playing cards, how you see dummy, and other display related.

If you click the **Settings** icon (the cog), you will see various options for controlling the appearance and functionality of the screen:



Settings

- Display style**
 - Detailed cards
 - Simplified cards
- Deal animation**
 - Slide
- As defender, see dummy**
 - Facing declarer
 - Facing me
- Animation duration**
 - [Slider]
- As declarer, see dummy as**
 - Vertical suits (facing declarer)
 - Horizontal hand
- Input style**
 - One click or tap
 - Two taps (tablet)
 - Double click (mouse)

Callout boxes provide detailed explanations for several options:

- "Detailed cards"** shows pictures of cards; "Simplified cards" are schematic and have larger symbols.
- The orientation of dummy's cards when you are defending.
- The orientation of dummy's cards when you are declaring.
- Choose the way you make bids and plays. With "Two taps", the first tap selects the card, then the second tap confirms. "Double click" means that you make two fast clicks.
- This controls how a new hand arrives at the beginning of each deal. Choose an effect, or set to "None" to have the hand simply appear.
- If you have an animation enabled, use the slider to control how long the animation lasts.

Buttons: OK, Cancel

Board, with dealer indicated by a blue box. Vulnerability is shown by red bands. In this case, NS are vulnerable and West is the dealer. You are sitting West

Bidding box. This is visible only when it is your turn to bid.

Your partner's name.

Your partner's video.

Advisory timer (if enabled).

Table and round number.

Left-hand opponent.

Your video.

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface. At the top, the board is labeled 'E' (East) and 'WEST' (West). The score is '12' with '6m' (6 minutes) below it. The table and round are 'Table 1 Rd 1 / 3'. The left-hand opponent is 'Stephen Peterkin' and the right-hand opponent is 'Sam Punch'. The dealer is 'Lyn'. The bidding box shows 'PASS'. The hand of the player (Andy Bowles) is shown at the bottom: A♥ 7♥ 4♥ 2♥ A♠ Q♠ 8♠ 7♠ 5♠ 4♠ K♦ 10♦ 7♦ 7♦. The interface includes a video feed of the player, a video feed of the right-hand opponent, and a settings gear icon. An 'ALERT' card is visible on the right side of the interface.

Right-hand opponent.

Settings button. This has options to control the appearance of the cards and screen, and how you make bids and plays.

Request an Undo. For misclicks, only if allowed by the rules.

Call the director.

Leave the table and return to the lobby.

Scores, travellers and rankings for completed boards.

Your hand.

Alert card. Use this to alert your partner's calls, like in face-to-face bridge.

The other buttons will be enabled once the bidding and play start.

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The screenshot shows a bridge game interface with the following elements:

- Top Left:** Contract information: E (East), N 12 (North 12), WEST, Table 1, Rd 1 / 3, 6m (6 million).
- Top Center:** Player name: Lyn.
- Top Right:** Video feed of a woman (Lyn).
- Middle Left:** Video feed of Stephen Peterkin.
- Middle Right:** Video feed of Sam Punch.
- Center:** Bridge board showing a hand with a "PASS" bid and a "4" card.
- Bottom Center:** Player name: Andy Bowles, with a hand of cards: A♥, 7♥, 4♥, 2♥, A♠, Q♠, 8♠, 7♠, 5♠, 4♠, K♦, 10♦, 7♦, 7♦.
- Bottom Right:** "ALERT" button and a grid of buttons: Last trick, Undo, Auction, Director, Claim, Leave.
- Bottom Left:** Scores section with two red bars and the number 0.

Callout boxes provide instructions for various controls:

- Volume control for your partner.** (Points to a speaker icon above the board)
- Volume control for left-hand opponent.** (Points to a speaker icon above Stephen Peterkin's video)
- Volume control for right-hand opponent.** (Points to a speaker icon above Sam Punch's video)
- Private chat with left-hand opponent.** (Points to a chat icon above Stephen Peterkin's video)
- Private chat with right-hand opponent.** (Points to a chat icon above Sam Punch's video)
- Disable/enable your video.** (Points to a video camera icon at the bottom)
- Disable / enable your microphone.** (Points to a microphone icon at the bottom)
- Hide / unhide the other players' videos.** (Points to an eye icon at the bottom)
- Redial.** (Points to a refresh icon at the bottom)

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