

Form a Four
Tips on how to start playing online bridge

1. Introduction

This document describes how to get started on BBO and makes a few suggestions to improve your familiarity with the site.

It assumes you will be using a web browser such as Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Firefox or Safari to access BBO. If you have an Apple device, you can download the BBO App from the App Store, the experience is similar but not identical to that described below.

There are tips which are enclosed in curly brackets { } and shaded, bold type

When you are asked to click selection, the name will be in bold type, if this followed by a double chevron >> then you should click on the next bold type item. E.g when you see Click **Practice** >> **Bridge Master**, you should click Practice and on the next screen click Bridge Master.

The main difference between online and F2F bridge is announcing and alerting. Online if you make a bid which would normally be announced or alerted you do it yourself as you make the bid. Your partner cannot see this information. For more information on this, watch the video made by David Dunford, Chairman of Nottingham Bridge Club at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rrj7xnHqZDQ>

2. Register with BBO

Before you start, think of a Username – this will be your nickname whenever you play {tips: don't include spaces; it's not case sensitive; don't make it too difficult for others to remember and type}. You will also need a unique password (maximum 10 digits)

Go to <https://www.bridgebase.com/> and click the Red Button labelled **Play Bridge Now>>Become a Member (free)** You need to type in some information:-

- User name
- Password
- Confirm password
- Email address
- Skill level optional leave it as private or enter a level as you wish
- Real Name – optional but it's good if people can welcome you, if you have privacy concerns, leave blank
- Other is for details of your system, leave blank for now.
- ACBL – ignore, it's for Americans
- Country or region, scroll down or up until you find England or Great Britain this determines what type of flag you get.
- Tick the box to agree to the terms of service
- Then Click **Register**

*If it doesn't work it's probably because someone has already registered the User Name. Change it **{tip: try adding a 2 or 3 digit number but don't exceed overall maximum of 10 }** then **Register** again*

You should be logged in to the system now. And can proceed to 4.

3. Logging in after you have registered

Go to <https://www.bridgebase.com/> and click the Red Button labelled **Play Bridge Now**

A screen will appear asking for your user name and password. Your browser program will probably have filled this in for you, but if it hasn't, or the wrong person is shown enter your own registered User Name and password.

You should now be logged in to BBO.

4. What to do next

If you want to practice declarer play and become familiar with the set up of BBO go to Bridgmaster. After logging in Click **Practice >> Bridge Master**

*This Opens a new screen, select your Level from **1. Beginner to 5 World Class**, and then select the hand you wish to play on the right.*

When you've played a hand, it's flagged with a Gold Star – contract made; a red cross- contract failed or and intermediate half and half symbol if you didn't finish it. The system remembers the hands you have played even after you log out.

There is a very useful solutions button which explains how you should be thinking and playing to make the contract. The system is interactive so that if you don't play the contract correctly key cards are moved to make sure you fail. Warning Bridge Master is addictive!

To practice bidding- try Solitaire, but remember robots play very quickly and use American style bidding.

*After logging in Click **Solitaire >> About Solitaire***

This opens a new pane that explains Solitaire. Please be aware that Robots explain every bid and they play 5 card majors and strong NT.

If you want a **gentle practice against real people** then contact either Sue Woodcock n.woodcock772@btinternet.com or Kevin Holden jkevh@btinternet.com and they will make arrangements.

5. Paying to Play

There is nothing to pay for using anything described in this document

Other organisations such as the EBU do levy a charge which you pay when you register for a session using BB\$. Please seek advice from an experienced player before purchasing BB\$.