Hello everyone

Delighted to share that we will be starting our Clontarf Area Virtual Bridge Club (CAVBC) Tournaments for St Anthony’s on Wednesday nights from 27-May at 19:30.

You should all have expressed your interest by now and we have a list of all your BBO usernames.  For those who expressed interest but no BBO usernames or who gave a username which we can’t find in BBO – we will contact you directly to resolve.

If you are new to BBO and having difficulty getting set up, let us know (by email) and we’ll happily help you get set up.

The following are all the instructions you need to participate in the Tournaments. It’s advisable to be familiar with the app before you register for a tournament. The tournaments will be max 15 table (30 pairs), 24 board competition. Table money will be BB$3. If you haven’t already done so, now is the time to purchase your BBO dollars. Here’s the link:

<https://www.bridgebase.com/purchase/pay.php>

If you are using a tablet (iPad or Android) or smartphone, we strongly advise you to access BBO using the WEB VERSION i.e. open your browser (usually Safari on an iPad/iPhone; varies depending on brand on an Android device) and navigate your way to www.bridgebase.com (if you’re using a laptop or desktop, you are automatically using this Web Version.

Registering

You must register to play in the tournament. Registration commences at 17:30 on Wednesdays. There’s no point searching for the tournament earlier than that. N.B. Registration is performed by ONE member of the partnership but BOTH MUST be online while it is going on. To register, the registering member of the partnership proceed as follows:

1. Log onto BBO. This brings you into the BBO Lobby.

2. Click on “Competitive”. This brings you from the Lobby into the Competitive Area.

3. Click on “All Tournaments”. This will present you with a list of all pending tournaments worldwide. There will probably be dozens.

4. To find our tournament, you could search the list manually, but there’s a much easier way. At the top right of the window, there’s a search facility. Click on “Search” and enter cavbc (the search is NOT case sensitive). Our tournament will pop up - make sure it has St Anthony's (or StA) in the title. Click on it.

5. Once you click on it, a box appears inviting you to register and advising you that it costs BB$3. You are asked to enter YOUR PARTNER’S BBO name (it already knows yours!). There is also an option to pay your partner’s table money as well as your own. This might be handy if partner hasn’t gotten around to buying his/her own BB$s.

6. It may also ask for your CBAI number - have this to hand in case.

Instructions for partner of the person doing the registration

You MUST be on BBO, and to be certain that everything works smoothly, you should be in the competitive area. So log on at the same time as partner, click on “Competitive” and just wait. You will get an invitation to participate in the tournament from partner. Accept it. It may also ask for your CBAI number - have this to hand in case.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO SUBSTITUTES

If you have volunteered to act as a substitute in the tournament, you MUST NOT register. If there is a half table, you will be invited to join it just after 19:30 by a director. You just accept and will land at the table. Substitutes don’t pay table money; a very small token of gratitude. It’s impossible to run a tournament smoothly without substitutes.

What Next?

If you register only a few minutes before the competition starts, it’s best just to stay put in the competitive area and at 19:30 you will be brought to your table. If nothing happens at exactly 19:30, don’t panic. It may be that we’re searching for a missing pair in other parts of BBO, such as the Relaxed Club, and have delayed the start for a couple of minutes.

If you register early (something we advise as only 30 pairs can register), you can log off and go about your business. You must log back on before 19:30. As it can take a few attempts to get into BBO, we’d advise you not to leave it beyond 19:15 before you log on. As noted above, when you log on, you arrive in the Lobby. You must move out of the lobby into the competitive area by clicking on “Competitive”. Now just wait. The most common reason people miss out on tournaments is because they are waiting in the wrong part of BBO. DO NOT wander into the relaxed club or play a bit of Solitaire while waiting, or if you do, make absolutely certain you go back to the competitive area before 19:30.

Each week, the list of players will be uploaded on the day of the tournament so we can make adjustments to the list up to Tuesday night. After that if you are not in the list, you won’t be able to play. We don’t need anyone to confirm if they are playing. We just need to know if there is someone missing from the list by Tuesday night.

During the Tournament

The computer obviously looks after all movements. You just sit comfortably at home! Just like real world Tournament Directors, BBO has certain foibles. It can basically do Mitchell, Swiss and Knock-Out competitions. Howell movements are not supported except by special arrangement. Half-Tables are not properly supported, thus the absolute necessity to have a spare pair available to fill any half table. We will be using the Mitchell movements. The Mitchell movements are generally simple and if the number of rounds exceeds the number of tables it plays revenge rounds. So if you meet the same pair twice, that’s what’s happening. You may also find yourself being switched from NS to EW for a round or two as happens in a hesitation Mitchell. Don’t worry about it.

The rounds will be timed at 7 minutes per board. If you think that’s a bit short, remember there is no physical movement going on, so that saves several minutes per round. If it’s set it too long, you will spend a lot of time sitting around at the end of rounds. It’s a difficult balance. If you run out of time, you are unceremoniously kicked out and on to the next round. By default, the system will assess the state of play and award a fair result or average out. Your Tournament Directors will look at these boards and may assign an adjusted score if that is more equitable. If you want to bring a board to our attention, use the Call Director function (click on the blue box on your screen), or just chat to one of us (make sure to chat -> Tournament to get our attention). All other chat should be to your table only (chat -> Table) to avoid distraction.

Alert

Please note that in BBO, you alert your own bids, not partners. Your alerts are seen by your opponents but not by your partner, so it’s perfectly equitable. In some ways, it’s better than what you are used to. If you want an explanation of an opponent’s bid, click on Alert and a box appears on your opponent’s computer asking for an explanation. You are not supposed to use chat to make alerts or answer queries as everyone can see chat. While we get up to speed, if you have any issue using the Alert function, then it’s fine to use the chat.

Claim

At both tournament play (and social play), claim when the outcome is clear. Be sure to state your line of play, especially when trumps remain outstanding. Playing out each card, one by one, when the outcome is clear, is unnecessary. Click on blue box and then click on Claim. You can select the number of tricks you want to claim to close the round – your opponents will see this and will have to accept or reject. This can help save time in rounds.

Undo

BBO has a facility to allow Undos of either bids or plays. This is intended ONLY to be used to correct mis-clicks NOT to allow you to change your mind. It is recommended that it be disabled in pay tournaments. If you are prone to mis-clicking, go into your account by clicking the “Account” tab and click “Settings”. Turn “Confirm Bids” and “Confirm Cards” on. This forces you to confirm all your bids and plays. It’s a pain but it cures your mis-clicking propensities!

That’s it. As always, if you have any queries, don’t hesitate to contact us. This is a learning experience for all of us so we may encounter the odd glitch. Once we gain momentum, it should be an enjoyable experience for all.

SABC Committee