

## **You can Play Bridge from Home**

While we are all trying to stay healthy at home, we can still play bridge! Last Monday I logged on to BridgeBase Online and found more than 25,000 people playing bridge online. BBO offers many types of games (some free and some with a nominal charge) including some sanctioned by the ACBL. That is correct – you too can earn black points by playing on BBO. Amazing. While homebound, I am playing twice a day for an hour with my Unit 191 club partners. You can even play individually with robots. It is lots of fun! In the current situation, BBO is also offering several games where the proceeds will go back to your local clubs. The website is: <https://www.bridgebase.com/>.

To find the Support Your Local Clubs – find competitive games labelled “Support your Local Club”. These are ACBL games that earn black points.

- **Play with a partner:** Support Your Club ACBL Black Point Games at 10am, 5pm, and 7:30pm every day. Eighteen boards are played in approximately two hours (7min per board). The entry fee is \$5 and \$4 goes back to your clubs proportionately based on each player’s attendance at clubs at which he or she plays. Almost every session involves more than 400 pairs playing at the same time around the world. Very exciting experience!
- **Play individually against robots:** Support Your Club ACBL Black Point Daylong Games- every day. Eighteen boards with matchpoint scoring. You can register, play at your own pace, leave the table, and resume the game later in the day without losing your results. You get the final results in your BBO email the next day. The entry fee is \$5 and \$4 goes back to your clubs proportionately based on each player’s attendance at clubs at which he or she plays.

If you would like help several local bridge players will be happy to try to guide you. See the list at the bottom of this document.

Unit 191 hopes that we will soon have our own club games on this platform. Stay tuned as the ACBL and BBO work together to provide the ability for local clubs to host their games online. In the meantime, try out BBO and support your local club!

Here are the instructions for how to use BBO with attribution and thanks to Wayne Stuart and Raleigh Bridge Club for providing this information:

### **1. Sign-up Steps**

If you want to look into playing online on Bridge Base but have not in the past, these steps will get you started:

\* Here is the website address: <https://www.bridgebase.com/> <- you can click on this link to get there.

\* Once on their site, please notice a red rectangle on the top right side of the screen that says Login/Register. If you're already registered you know what to do. If not, click on the rectangle and you will next see a screen where you can register. Halfway down the middle of the next page is a LARGE blue rectangle that says: Become a member (free!). IT IS FREE to join and to play bridge on bridge base online!

\* On the next screen you will need to make up a username for yourself as well as a unique password which you'll have to confirm. You then provide your real name and ACBL number (which they keep private). You will assess your own skill level by checking a box and then select your country – the list is alphabetical. You will, of course, check the box to accept their terms of service and then you'll be able to click on the blue rectangle (it turns blue after you check the box to accept terms) to Register.

Once you are registered you'll be able to play bridge in their common areas and participate in free tournaments. For those who wish to play bridge to earn black points, you will need to create an account with your credit card. YOU DO HAVE TO PAY an entry fee to participate in events where you can earn masterpoints. ACBL games are \$1.25 for a 12 board game unless it is a "Support your Local Club game" – then the cost is \$5. We hope that you will happily support your local clubs!

There are at least 3 ways to currently use BBO: tablet/phone, current desktop and an older desktop version. For that reason, it is hard to describe exactly where you will find these features, exactly, for your particular device; however, I hope you can follow the gist and find it on whatever you're using.

## **2. Common questions about playing on BBO**

### **a) Where to put ACBL#**

Your ACBL# is usually added when you create your account initially. If you need to add your ACBL# to an existing account log into your account on the website.

### **b) How and where to fill in a convention card**

Go to My BBO->Convention Cards in the older version or My account>Convention Cards for the newer version. From there you can click on "New Generic CC" or "New ACBL CC" play with that and see which one suits your needs best. It will launch a CC editor which is quite nice. You shouldn't have any trouble from this point. Just make sure that you fill out your partner's BBO ID in the appropriate place so that it will automatically load it when you sit down to play with that partner.

### **c) How to announce NT ranges and how the self alerts work**

On BBO the alert system works backwards from what you are used to. On BBO you alert your own bid with what it means. But your partner cannot see your alert. The software does not send your self-alert to your partner, only to the opponents. You can use this to alert bids or NT ranges.

The best way to do this is to Click Alert before you enter your bid and then type your explanation into the text box that is contained within the bidding box. Then select your bid and enter. Your explanation will automatically be alerted to the opponents and some "bubble text" will pop up on their screen with your explanation. Similarly, if you are looking at the opps auction you may see their explanation pop up on their screen. If it does not, you can click on the bid in question which will ask them for more information. Give them a few moments to type in the response to the question. It should the pop up on your screen as mentioned above.

#### **d) How do director calls work**

The director call button is in very different places on the 3 different interfaces. In the latest desktop version it is in the upper left hand corner – blue box with 3 horizontal bars. Once you have located it you can call the director by clicking on it. I think you may be able to add a brief basic description in the request, such as "I think Wayne fell asleep". The TD (tourney director) for the event will come to your table and chat with the table "How can I help?" Generally, after that you converse privately (typed chat) and explain your concern. After that the TD should take over and do whatever is needed.

#### **e) How to invite your regular partner**

To register for a tournament, go to ACBL World and select the tournament. When you click on the name of the tournament a box will pop up if you require a partner. From there, you enter your partner's bbo name and there is an option box you can click to "pay for partner" should you choose to do so. (There is no option for "take it back if partner plays poorly".)

#### **f) Just play bridge solitaire (with robots)**

<http://www.bridgebase.com/arcade/latest2/v3.php?g=7>.

#### **g) How to add Bridge Bucks (BBO\$) – needed for some games but not all.**

There is an option somewhere called "BBS". Click on this and follow the buttons. It should allow you to add \$ from your credit card to your BBO account. There is an option for automatically refilling the account.

Youtube tutorials: - Thanks to John Torrey for making us aware of these options

- On bidding and alerting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2UFOOVR5P8>
- Undoing misclicks <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luz8aoeVpIY>
- ACBL tutorial: <https://www.acbl.org/bbotutorials/>

#### **4. Additional information – Just ask us!**

UNIT 191 BBO Players – emails and phone numbers available in the Online Unit directory.

**Name/bbo name**

Deanna Larus/tarheeldee

Paul Morrissette/ paulmor2

Suzie Goldberg/ suzieg

Jane Kiernan/ jk2215

Hugon Karwowski/ hjk11

Craig Robinson/ tcraig63

Ian Cloudsdale/ isclou

Phylliss Woody/ bridgepls

John Schachte/shocktee

Mariee Walton/ georgiabrn

Chris Moll/ mollbridge