

Beginners Guide to Bridge On-Line

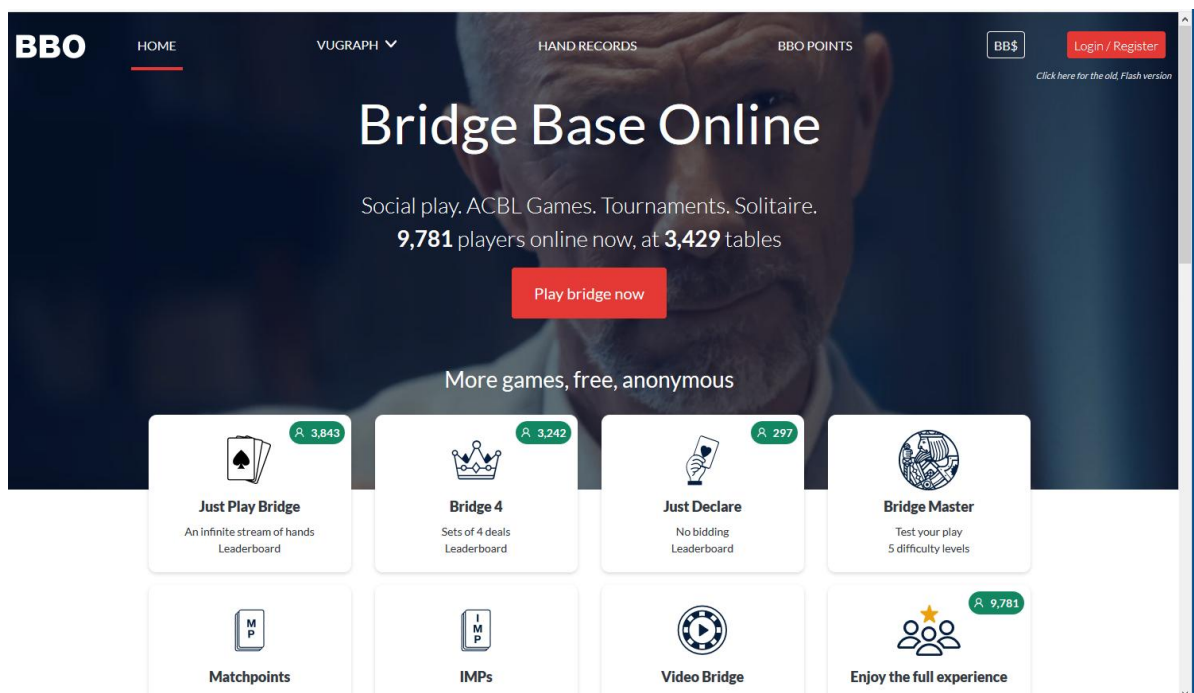
Getting Started

With Bridge Clubs closed, you can still indulge in your favourite game online.

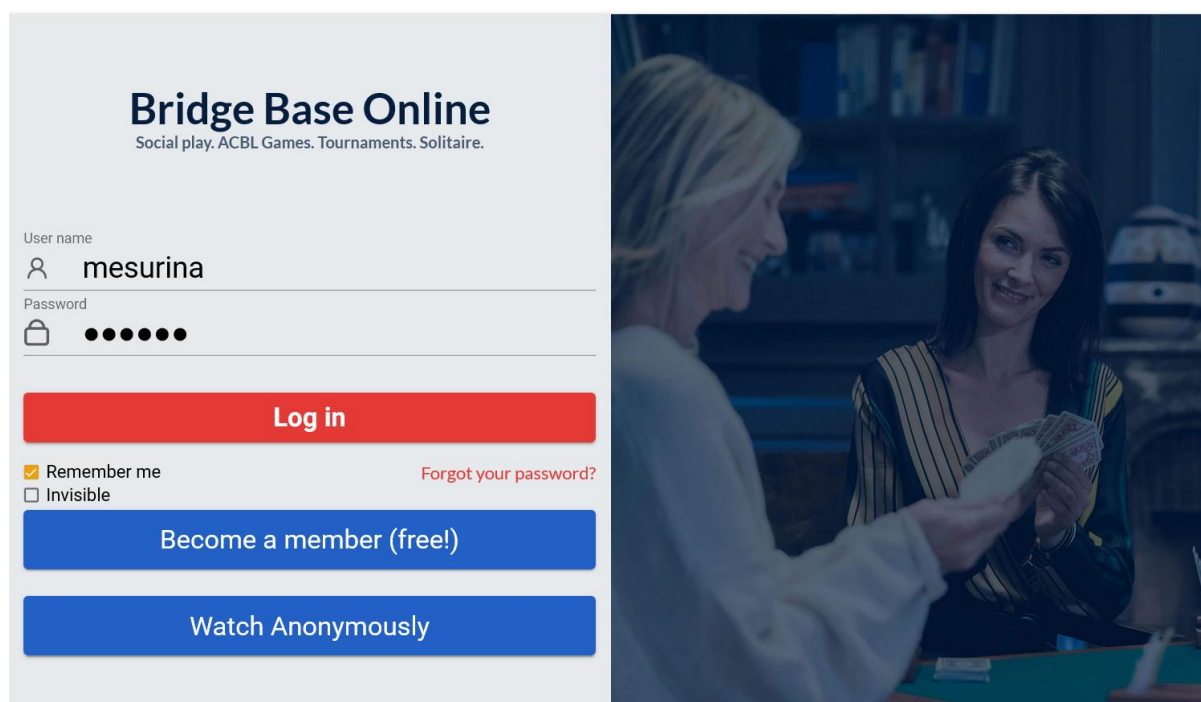
This paper covers the biggest online site BBO. There are other sites including Funbridge and Bridge Club Live. BBO offers unlimited free bridge with other players and with built in robots.

Go to <https://www.bridgebase.com/>. This works with PC's, laptops and tablets. There is also an app available.

This is the opening screen: Select *Play bridge now*.



You will be taken to the following screen – it can be a little slow at present because of the large number of users.



This is the screen I get. The computer remembers my User name (Mesurina) and password. If you do not have a log in you need to register, select *Become a member (free!)*. You will see the following screen.

The registration form is titled 'Become a member (free!)' and includes a back arrow. It contains several input fields: 'User name' (with a 'Required' label and character count), 'Password' (with a 'Required' label and character count), 'Confirm password' (with a 'Required' label and character count), 'Real name', and 'ACBL Number'. There are two dropdown menus: 'Skill level' with options from 'Private' to 'World Class' (where 'Private' is selected), and 'Country' with a list of countries including 'Northern Ireland', 'Norway', 'Oman', 'Other' (selected), 'Pakistan', 'Palestine', and 'Panama'. At the bottom, there is a checkbox for 'I agree to the Terms of Service' and a 'Register' button. A footer bar contains 'Help' and 'Privacy policy' links.

You will be known online by the User name you select (so select it thoughtfully) add a password. You have the option of selecting a Skill level and a Country. Your choices will appear on your online profile which other players can see. Agree to the Terms of Service and a blue box with Register in white letters will appear. Select it and you will be taken to this opening screen:

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Bridge Base Online Home

9944

3496

PLAY OR WATCH BRIDGE

Solitaire

Competitive

BBO Prime

Casual

Practice

FEATURED AREAS

ACBL World

Robot World

Challenges

Instant Tournaments

Vugraph (live broadcasts)

Masterpoints and Races

→Lobby

Message

Chat

BBO offers a wide range of ways to play. I suggest you start with the first option *Solitaire*. It will allow you to gain experience of using BBO without annoying a human opponent! Select *Just Play Bridge*. This takes you to a table playing against 3 robots.

START A SOLITAIRE BRIDGE GAME

Just Play Bridge (Free)

Start a Bridge 4 game (Free)

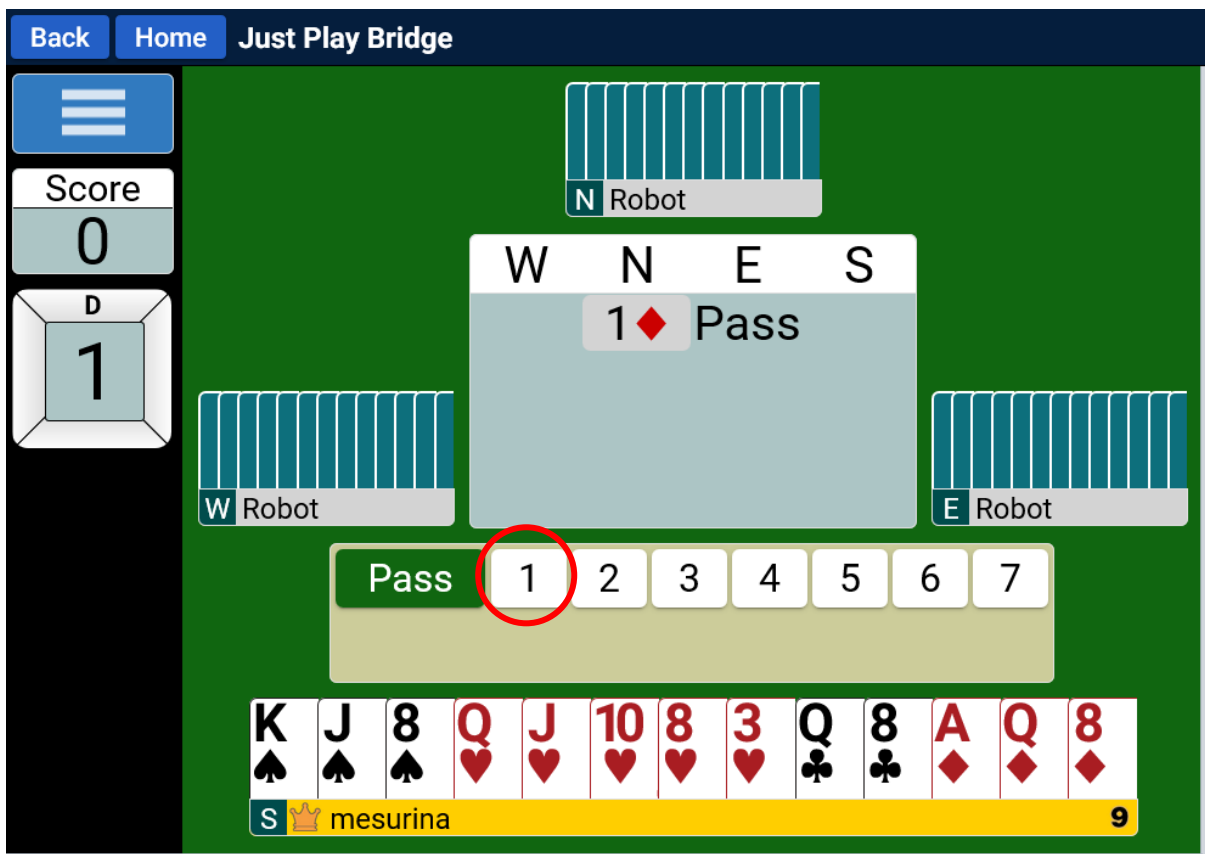
Instant Tournaments

Weekly Free Instant Tournament

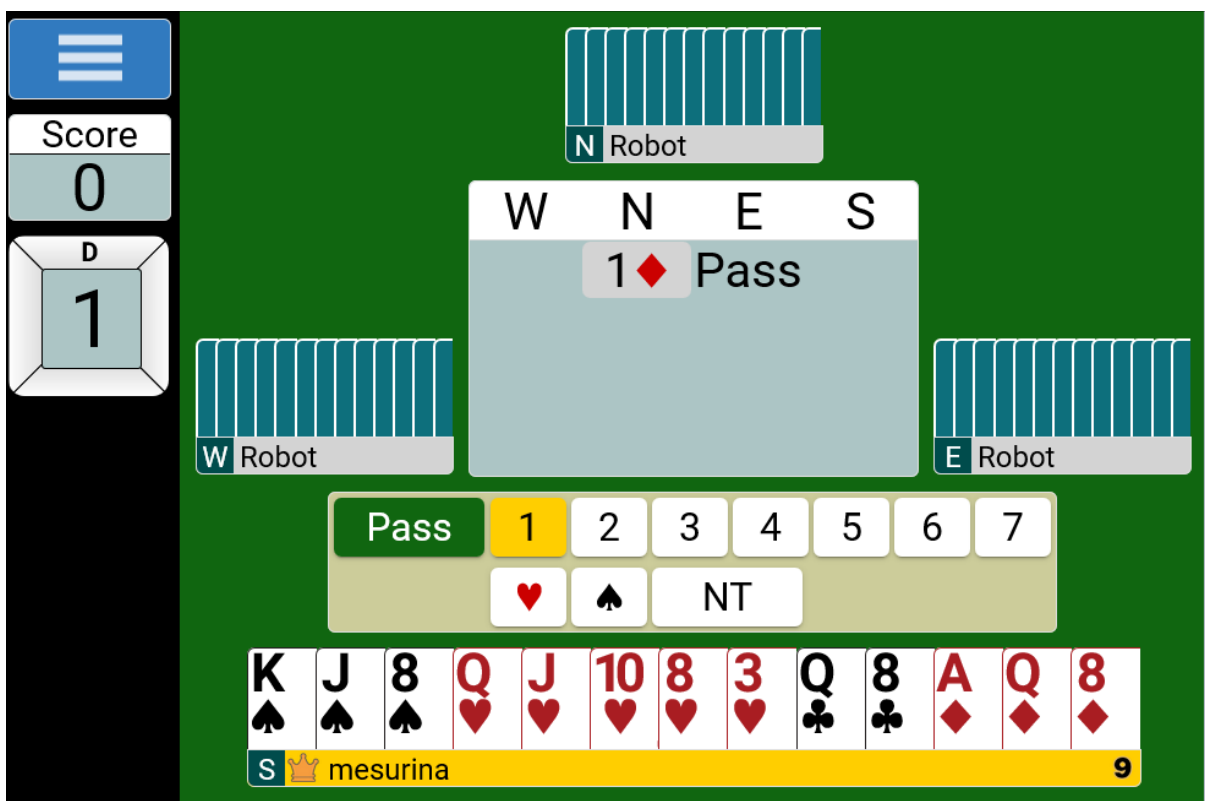
Bridge Master

About Solitaire Bridge

You will get this screen:



It will be your turn to bid. Click on the “1” in the bidding area (ringed). (If you are playing on a tablet see note below.)



Legal bids appear. Hover your mouse over a suit and a description of what your bid will mean to the Robot appears:

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface. On the left, a sidebar displays a menu icon, a score of 0, and a level indicator 'D 1'. The main area features a bidding box with 'W Robot' and 'E Robot' positions, a central display showing 'W N E S' and '1♦ Pass', and a row of buttons for 'Pass', '1', '2', '3', '4', '5', '6', '7', '♥', '♠', and 'NT'. Below the buttons is a hand of cards for 'S' (mesurina) with a high card point count of 9. A tooltip for the '1♥' bid is circled in red, containing the text: '1♥', 'One over one -- 4+ ♥; 6+ total points'.

Click on any Robot bid and an explanation appears:

The screenshot shows the same bridge bidding interface as above. In this instance, the '1♦' bid in the central display is highlighted with a red circle. A tooltip for the '1♦' bid is circled in red, containing the text: '1♦', 'Minor suit opening -- 3+ ♦; 11-21 HCP; 12-22 total points'.

Click to make your bid – in this case 1H

Score: 0

D: 1

W Robot: Pass

N: 1♦

E: Pass

S: 1♥

W Robot: Pass

N: 2♣

E: Pass

S: Pass

Pass 2 3 4 5 6 7

S mesurina 9

2♣

Opener two rebid
– 4+ ♣; 4+ ♦; 3-♥; 3-♠; 11-16 HCP; 12-18 total points

The Robot has made a bid. I clicked on it to show what it meant. You want to bid 3N so you click on 3 and N. In this case the bid was passed out and this screen appears:

Score: 0

D: 1

W Robot: Pass

N: 3N

E: Pass

S: Pass

3NT South

0 0

Concede

S mesurina 9

N Robot

W Robot

E Robot

7♥

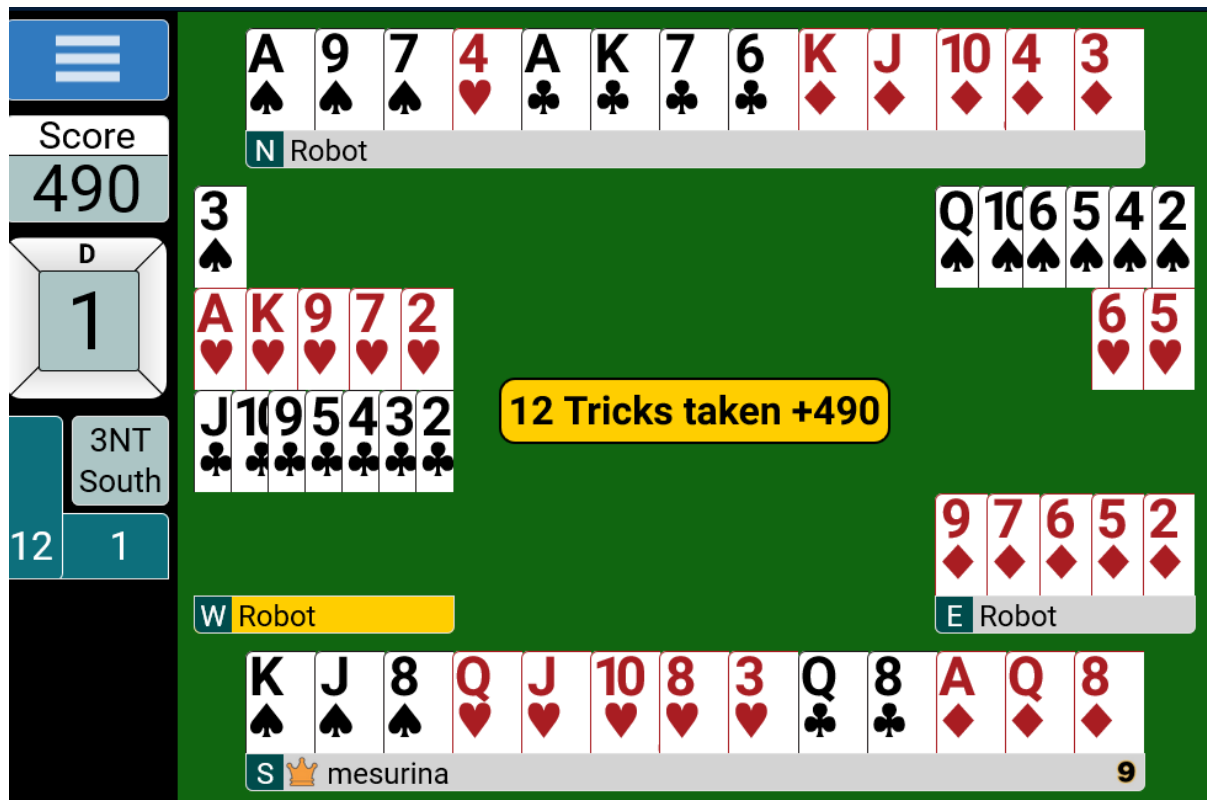
7♥

A♠ 9♠ 7♠ 4♥ A♣ K♣ 7♣ 6♣ K♦ J♦ 10♦ 4♦ 3♦

K♠ J♠ 8♠ Q♥ J♥ 10♥ 8♥ 3♥ Q♣ 8♣ A♦ Q♦ 8♦

You play by clicking on the card you want. The screen shows you the contract, and the number of tricks won by each side just below.

Here is the screen after you have cashed your tricks:



It will remain on the screen for a few seconds and then the next hand will appear.

When you have finished playing click on *Log off* or just close the window or app.

Once you have played a few hands and become used to playing on line you will want to try other areas of BBO where you can play with and against people rather than robots.

Playing on a Tablet

Instead of clicking you touch the menu item, card or bid you want. The technique for hovering is to touch the suit – an explanation will appear. Instead of releasing your finger (which will make the bid) slide it away from the suit then release it. The explanation will disappear. This may need a bit of practice

Michael Baron March 2020