

INSTRUCTIONS FOR U3A INTERNATIONAL ONLINE BRIDGE

- (1) **These events are only open to paid up members of U3A International.** Before registering for the first time you must send your Bridge Base Online (BBO) user name to the Organiser.
- (2) For each event you wish to play in you must register on BBO, either on the website or the app. The event will go live on Wednesday at 2.00 pm and you have to register between then and 4.00 pm. Please don't leave it to the last minute!
- (3) A small charge is payable to BBO, normally \$1.50 per player. In order to pay you need to have previously purchased BBO dollars. Please note they are cheaper to buy on the website than from within the app. log in to the website from your browser – Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Safari, etc.

(4) Registration

- (i) From the home screen go to Competitive
 - (ii) Then go to All Tournaments
 - (iii) Locate our tournament which will be hosted by Marbelli and designated U3A International Pairs (with a different #number each week)
 - (iv) Click the Register button. You will be asked for the user name of your Partner. The system then sends out an invitation to your Partner which he/she must accept. You and your Partner must both be online and logged in to BBO at the same time for this to work.
 - (v) **Payment Options.** Tick the box if you will pay for both yourself and your Partner. Otherwise the default option is that you pay your entry fee and your Partner pays their entry fee.
- (5) Make sure you are back online and logged in by 3.55 pm.
 - (6) The tournament will commence at 4.00 pm. You will be taken to your first table and proceed to play. Depending on the number of tables we will play either 9 x 2 board rounds or 6 x 3 board rounds, with a total of 18 boards in each case. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE EARLY or you will spoil it for everyone else.
 - (7) You will have 8 minutes per board, so 16 or 24 minutes to complete the round PLEASE DO NOT PLAY SLOWLY. If you do not complete the round in the allotted time you will be cut off. As Tournament Director I then become involved to decide what to do, either averaging the score or awarding what score seems most appropriate. I would rather not have to do this as I will be playing in the tournament as well!

(8) Alerts and explanations

Online, players self-alert. Each player alerts and explains their partnership agreement using the **Alert** box in the bidding diagram. Partner cannot see your alerts, only opponents see them.

To ask about the meaning of a bid made by the opponents, players need to click on that bid in the bidding diagram. Do not click more than once — ask, then wait for the player to type the explanation.

Explanations about bids should not be written in table chat, they need to be made via the alert mechanism.

- (9) **Disconnections.** If you lose your internet connection all you have to do is log back in and you will be taken back to your board. There is no need for anyone to reinvite (as is required when we play privately with friends).
- (10) **Undo's.** You have to be very careful when you click on either a bid or a card to play as it is easy to get the wrong one, especially if playing on a small screen such as a smartphone (not recommended for this reason). I will allow undo's until further notice. If you make a misclick mistake you can click on the blue box with white horizontal lines at the top left of the board and ask for an undo. The opponents have to agree (please do so!). Please do not abuse this privilege. It is not intended to be used if you make an error of judgement.

There is lots of help available on the BBO site/app. Here is an introduction if you have never played there before: <https://blog.bridgebase.com/2020/03/09/new-to-bridge-base-online/>
If you are new to BBO I would recommend playing a few games of Solitaire, i.e. against the computer as this will get you used to bidding and playing the cards. From the Home Screen choose Solitaire, then Just Play Bridge (Free).