



Dear Club Managers

We know that the shutdown of bridge clubs has been very tough on your members and the financial viability of your club. The ABF has been working hard with BBO to create an online game for your bridge club that will:

- Enable your members to play with their friends in your virtual club, socialise and have fun
- Create a way for your club to receive income whilst the club is closed to contribute towards your overhead costs
- Allow your members to continue to earn masterpoints and grow their Masterpoint Ranking
- Encourage your members to support their club by paying a small entry fee
- Winning your members loyalty to return when the clubs open again

The ABF Club Games is your private club allowing you to host games for members and guests. For instance, you may like to invite players from nearby clubs who are unable or are not yet running online games. You can organise as many games a week as determined by player demand, what time they are played and the format.

Your members and guests will pay from about \$2.50 for 12 board games up to \$5 for 24 board games to BBO online. The players will earn Green Masterpoints for being in the top half of the field as they would when playing physically in the club.

The clubs will receive a share of revenue which will be distributed from BBO via the ABF. The financial arrangements will be provided in a separate document to the clubs that are interested in hosting ABF Club games.

The club will either need a Director who is an experienced BBO player or share a game with another club that has a suitable director.

However, please note the following points you need to consider when deciding to host ABF Club Games:

- If you are not confident that you will be able to get 6 tables for each of the games then perhaps wait until more of your members have become accustomed to playing on BBO and want to play
- Creating and running these online games requires some computer knowledge and skills

- Your director needs to be comfortable and preferably experienced as a BBO player to navigate BBO. If you would like some additional help tutorials may be found [here](#)
- The provision of training and assistance for inexperienced BBO Directors may, for some clubs, be a necessary pre-requisite.
- The ABF will review your application and schedule clubs to be brought online as soon as BBO can accommodate them
- The larger clubs are expected to be the first to set up ABF Club games as they are more likely to have the technical and directing capabilities
- **Even though you may decide not to host tournaments, there will still be games available for your members who wish to play online.**
- We are aiming to provide an option for smaller clubs to jointly run games perhaps in regional sessions.

If you are interested in running ABF Club Games then please follow these steps:

1. The club needs to fill out this form to [express an interest](#) (EOI) in hosting BBO club sessions.
2. The next **MOST IMPORTANT** step is the players new to BBO must register with BBO to obtain a BBO Username and Password
3. In order to be awarded Masterpoints, and to play in ABF Regional, State or National BBO tournaments, players need to record their BBO name on the ABF database. How this is to be done will depend on whether they have already registered to receive ABF emails (eg. SMS results service, ABF Newsletter, upcoming announcements).

a) If they are not yet registered:

www.abfevents.com.au/forms/signup/

This is the link "Get email updates" on the ABF Home Page.

They need to enter their ABF number, name, email address and BBO username.

They can also sign up for other ABF services at the same time if they wish.

b) If they have already registered:

Everyone on the ABF mailing list will shortly receive or will have received an email inviting them to register their BBO username.

They will then receive another email giving them the option of entering their BBO name. (This apparent "doubling up" is for security purposes.)

Suggestions for clubs getting ready to host BBO sessions

- Get your directors familiar with BBO and to read this document blog.bridgebase.com/2020/04/02/the-virtual-club-manager-manual/
- Get your players signed up on BBO, send their BBO username to the ABF and start developing your database
- www.bridgebase.com/v3/
- Introduction to [Playing Bridge Online by Jessica Brake](#)
- Get them familiar with [How to register for a Bridge Base Tournament](#)
- Read [BBO protocols](#) for Alerting, Chatting and Calling The director
- Ask for volunteers from your members who are experienced players on BBO to assist other club members to learn how to play on BBO

Remember the more members you teach and play in your virtual online game the more income you will create for your club

Here are some great YouTube videos for those new to BBO

m.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9IOXJf9R9em-kAdxhUGxQniqZJm1PpCI

If you have any questions please contact Peter Cox on 0413 676 326 or at petercox@ozemail.com.au