



LBC VIRTUAL CLUB– GETTING STARTED FAQs

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Who can play in the LBC Virtual Club games?

LBC games are restricted to LBC players, or those of other clubs (St. Thomas and Tillsonburg) that have agreed to allow their players to be added to the club roster. BBO will not allow players to register for an LBC virtual club game unless they are on BBO's LBC roster.

ACBL and BBO have set up the virtual club facility to support duplicate bridge clubs during the COVID-19 closure. Running virtual club games online enables clubs – and the ACBL - to generate some revenue towards covering fixed expenses.

Players may arrange for a guest to play as their partner; contact the director well in advance to do this, as it is a multi-step process.

Do I get assigned a partner, or can I bring my partner?

Just as at the regular LBC club games, we expect that most players will arrange to play with a partner, who must also be on BBO's LBC roster. There is an on-line 'Partnership Desk' for each event. If any players are registered with the partnership desk, you may invite one to be your partner. Unattached partners can see each other and can communicate with each other by chatting. If you are unsuccessful in getting a partner by 15 minutes before game time, send a chat message to **vacb272120**, LBC's director, who will assign you a partner from the BBO substitute list, if possible.

Is there a Director?

Yes. Your on-line game Director will be one of our LBC Directors.

What are BridgeBase dollars (BB\$), and how do I get them?

BB\$ are simply credits that a player may purchase for their account through the BBO site. One BB\$ = \$US 1.00. A credit card or PayPal is needed to buy BB\$. Information can be found on the BBO site by clicking on the BB\$ tab at the top right of your screen (next to your name) after logging on. We recommend buying BB\$ on the secure BB\$ website while logged in through a web browser and NOT while using the BBO app.

Note - If you are using the BBO app on a tablet or phone, using the "Shop" button to buy BB\$ will incur additional fees or higher exchange rates from the third-party vendors.

How much does a session cost to play?

An LBC virtual session costs \$US 5.00 collected by BBO. 75% of this will come to LBC to help pay our rent and other fixed costs. Your support is truly appreciated!

How do I pay?

Fees are deducted from your BB\$ account when the game starts.

How many boards will we play?

A regular scheduled session will consist of 20 or 21 boards, two or three boards per round, depending on the number of pairs entered.

What's the pace of the game? How long is a session?

Initially, the game will be conducted at a pace of a maximum of 7 minutes per board. If all tables in a section have completed play before time is up, the computer will start the next round. You can expect to finish an LBC session in just under 2 ½ hours.

Must my ACBL number be on my BBO profile?

In order for you to receive your masterpoint awards BBO will need your ACBL member number. If you have not entered your ACBL number with BBO, please do so before registering for the virtual Club game. (To do this, log on, click on "ACBL World", and locate the blue tab that indicates "Update Your ACBL Number".) If you are not sure if your ACBL number is on your profile, go to that same tab to check. You also must have an ACBL number on your profile to play in a game which has a Masterpoint limit.

Must the players be ACBL members?

No. If you do not have an ACBL member number but are an LBC player, we can add you to our BBO roster so that you can join our Open game. BBO deems any player without an ACBL number to be an expert. You will be in the top strat in the Open game, and will not be admitted to any Limited Masterpoint games. If you were an ACBL member but have dropped your membership, enter your previous number; it does not have to be current. If you have never been an ACBL member, consider getting a free trial ACBL membership. Even if you do not extend it, this will get you a number.

What should I do if my Internet connection fails during the game?

Log back in to BBO as quickly as possible. If a substitute has been seated in your absence, the BBO software should bump them out and return you to the table. If

that does not happen automatically, message the director **vacb272120** or use chat to ask someone at the table to call the Director.

What happens if I can't keep up?

The computer is keeping track of the time, and if the time runs out in a round, you will be taken directly to the next round (even in the middle of a hand). If that occurs, the computer will try to determine how the play would have gone, and will assign a score. In the event the computer is not able to determine the expected outcome, the computer will either assign a score of average, or ask the presiding Director to review the board and play and determine an adjusted score.

What else is different about playing on-line?

There are several things that you should be aware of when playing on-line. See our separate FAQ sheet on that subject.

All results are recorded automatically by the BBO software, you do not need to enter them on a Bridgemate or personal scorecard. After the game, the history function lets you go back to any board and see a review of the bidding and play.

When should I expect to find games on-line?

LBC's Virtual Club game schedule is available on the LBC website. Games will appear in the BBO listings two hours before the scheduled start of the game.

When and How do I pre-register for a game?

- Registration opens two hours before game time. Log in to www.Bridgebase.com.
- Find the section for “Play or Watch Bridge” (blue stripe).
- Click on “Competitive”.
- Under “Tournaments” (green stripe), click on “ACBL Virtual Clubs”.
- Look under “Pending” for games identified as London Bridge Centre. Click on the game to see details about the game or to send an Invitation to your partner for play in the event.

Hint: Arrange with your partner to log on at the same time to register; one of you issues the invitation, the other accepts, and then your registration is complete. Please stay on-line until this has been done and you receive a confirmation that your entry has been completed. Once the registration is complete, you do NOT need to stay on-line. Please log back on at least 10 minutes prior to the game start time to make certain you have no connection issues.

How will my LBC friends recognize me by my BBO username?

When they are at a table with you in BBO, they can click on your user name to see your profile. If you have entered your real name on your BBO profile, they will recognize you that way. Another approach is to add your BBO user name to your Pianola contact information.

- Log in to Pianola
- click on the down arrow in the small box in upper right (where your name appears)
- click on “my account”
- in the Online Bridge Accounts section, enter your BBO user name under Bridge Base Online
- Scroll to bottom of page and click “Save Changes”

When other players look you up on Pianola, your BBO user name will appear with your contact information.

How do I link my existing BBO account to my ACBL number?

Log in to BBO, go to ACBL World, and near the bottom of the screen will be a link to Update Your ACBL Number. Follow that to enter your number. If you are a Life Master, you may enter your number starting with the letter code. Enter your number carefully; once it's in, you can not change it.

Are robots used in the Club play?

No - you will play with other people. Substitutes will be called in (if possible) if they are needed to fill in or to fill out the field. Robots may be used to fill in short absences when a player has been logged off.

Anything else I should do before playing in an LBC game?

If you have not played on BBO before, it will be helpful to watch some of the free tutorials on the ACBL website. <https://www.acbl.org/bbotutorials/> We also recommend logging in and playing in the free solitaire bridge to get familiar with the basic bid and play functions. Then play in a free casual game, either pre-arranged with friends or just sit in at an open casual play table.

The entry fee seems a bit high, compared to our regular LBC games?

A fee of \$5 US or higher is common for the ACBL Virtual Club games, as all bridge clubs (including LBC) have lost their regular revenue streams. ACBL and BBO have quickly set up this function to provide some financial support to those clubs who still have rent and other bills to pay. We appreciate their support – and yours!