

FAQs (this will change and expand!)

Q1. Are we allowed to start challenging pairs from NOW, and then start playing from Sunday 19/July? Or should we hold off from challenging until 19/July (official start of the Ladder)?

You can challenge right away. Any matches played before Sunday 19th will be regarded as having been played next week and will be 'scored' on the Ladder at the same time as matches that are played next week. The ladder will be updated and published on the website sometime between Sunday and Wednesday of the following week.

Q2. Am I right in understanding that we're allowed to challenge all of the three Teams above us at the same time (rather than challenge, then play that match, then challenge another team, then play that match and so on), and organise the matches for any time within three weeks of issuing the Challenge?

Yes.

Q3. If we challenge, say, the Team three above us, and arrange to play the match in three weeks, it is then possible that the team that we have challenged may have gone up a few places in the intervening weeks (and of course we may have gone down!), and they will then be more than three places above us on the ladder when we *actually* play our match... is that correct? So the ladder position (i.e. up to three places above) is important *ON THE DATE OF THE CHALLENGE*, rather than when the match actually takes place.

Yes. Also, when I carry out my weekly update of the ladder (sometime between Sunday and Wednesday of the following week), I will move / not move pairs in the date order of when matches were played. You could find that you have won the one match you played in the previous week but have moved down a rung because your opponents have been leapfrogged twice since you issued the challenge.

Q4. Can anyone join at any time?

Yes, provided they are introduced by an existing BBO Friends member, they have a partner, they are familiar with playing on BBO. New members will enter the ladder on the bottom rung. If you wish to introduce a friend, please contact me on ng34bridge@gmail.com

Q5. Can a pair take time out (for example, when going on a long holiday)?

Yes. Just notify me and I will flag your pair as 'not available' on the Ladder. This means that for the purpose of applying the 'three pairs above' rule , your pair will not count. In effect, a pair three places below you can challenge the pair immediately above you. So you will gradually slip down the ladder. Just let me know when you become available again.

Q6. Is there ever going to be a 'Reigning Champion' pair?

I have not thought this through yet, but we could have an End of Year Champion Pair with a prize, and maybe another at the end of June.

Q7. Can you challenge a pair below you?

No, but you can invite them to challenge you.

Q8. Can you play in more than one pair?

Yes, a maximum of two pairs.