

# Bridge Base Online (BBO) Instructions

BBO is an online bridge platform where about 50,000 players from all around the world play bridge. This set of instructions is set out with the following sections to allow a first-time user to register, login, play or watch, and manage many settings.

1. Register
2. Login
3. Play or Watch (Casual / Competitive / Practice)
4. Messages (News / Chat / Mail)
5. People (Friends / Hosts / Stars / Search / Ignores)
6. History (My table / Recent Hands / Recent Tournaments)
7. Account (Profile / Settings / Convention Cards / Deal Archive)
8. Hand Records

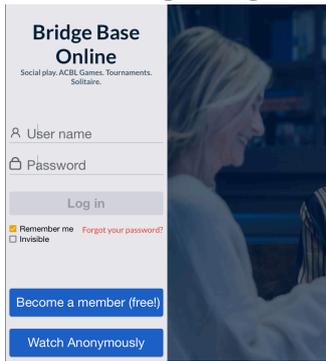
## 1. Register with BBO

From any web browser go to the following address <https://www.bridgebase.com>

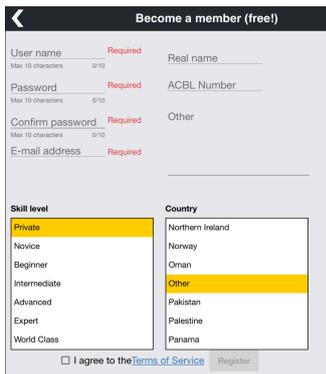
This will show the main home page

The screenshot shows the BBO website home page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'BBO' on the left, 'HOME' (underlined), 'VUGRAPH', 'HAND RECORDS', 'BBO POINTS', and 'Login / Register' on the right. Below the navigation bar, the main heading is 'Bridge Base Online' in large white text. Underneath, it says 'Social play. ACBL Games. Tournaments. Solitaire.' and '41,671 players online now, at 8,646 tables'. A red button labeled 'Play bridge now' is centered below this text. Below the button, it says 'More games, free, anonymous'. There are eight game mode cards arranged in two rows of four. Each card has an icon, a title, and a brief description. The first row includes 'Just Play Bridge' (10,275 players), 'Bridge 4' (6,430 players), 'Just Declare' (573 players), and 'Bridge Master'. The second row includes 'Matchpoints', 'IMPs', 'Video Bridge', and 'Enjoy the full experience' (41,671 players). At the bottom left, there is a photograph of three people playing bridge at a table. At the bottom right, there is a 'COMMUNITY' section with the heading 'Join the community' and a 'Join the community' button.

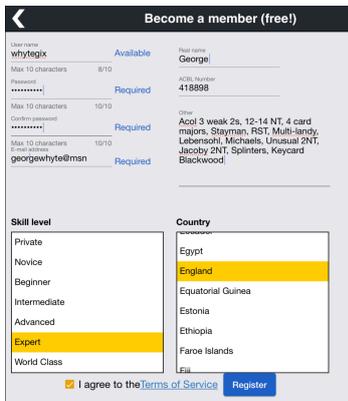
Press the Login/Register button in top right.



Press Become a member (free!)



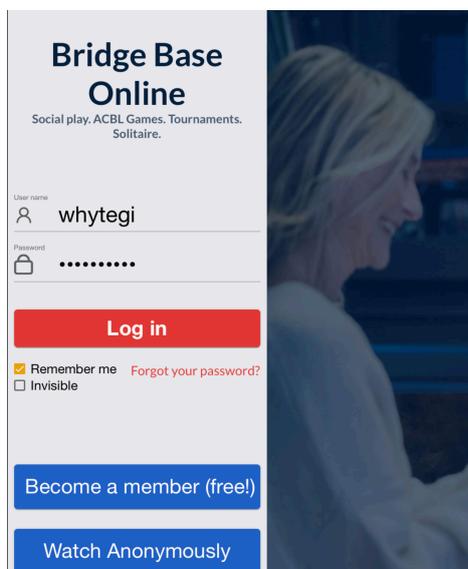
Enter a unique username (maximum 10 character), this will immediately show you if it is not available or available. Then enter a password (maximum 10 characters) and confirm the same password. Enter your email address. Enter a real name, EBU or ACBL number if you have one, and then briefly describe the system you play with the most common conventions in other. Select your skill level and country from the lists. Tick the box next to I agree to the terms and services after you have read them. The register blue button should now be highlighted. Press this to register. An example fully filled out form is below.



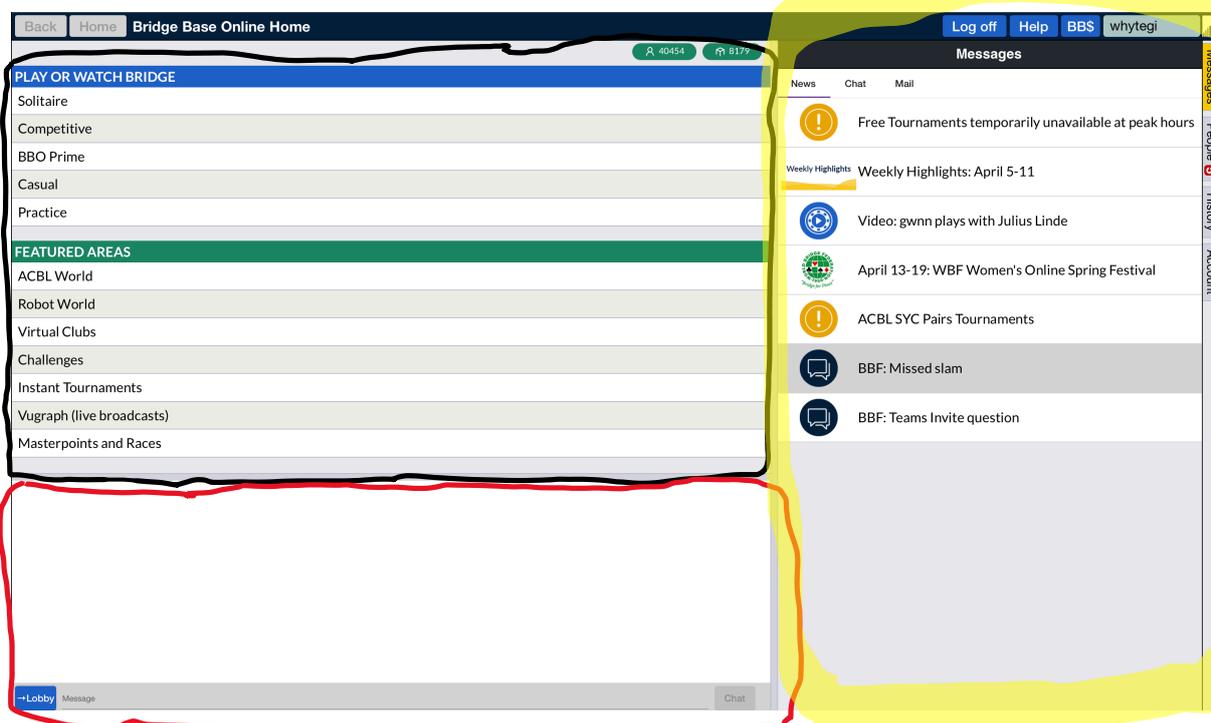
After registering you will be a member of BBO and can login to play or watch bridge.

## 2. Login to BBO

Go to BBO home page as described in step 1. Either press the Play Bridge Now red button in the middle of the page or press Login/Register red button in top right of page.



If you use the computer regularly then best to tick the Remember me box below the Log in button before pressing Log in. Enter your username and password that you registered with and press the big red Log in button. You are now in the bridge club. The default layout is shown below. There are 3 panes. Top Left (black marker) is the play area where you select the type of game you would like to play. Bottom Left (red marker) is the message area where you can communicate to others that are in the Lobby or playing at your table or private messages to any individual. On the right (yellow marker) is a collection of settings for messages, people, history and account which will be described later.

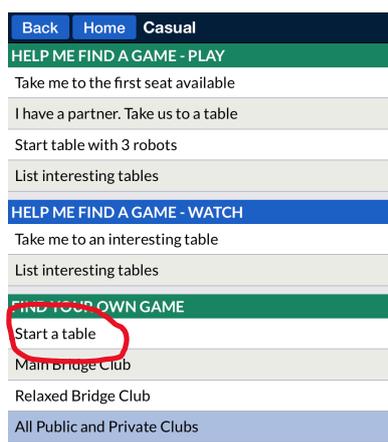


### 3. Play or Watch Bridge

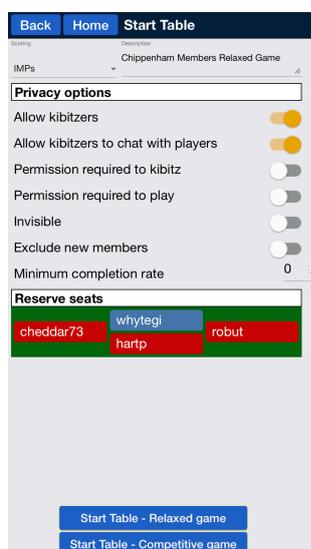
You could spend hours looking around the different areas of bridge, but my advice would be to stick to either a casual game of bridge or a competitive team match with players from your local club or clubs. The only other area worth looking at is the practice area where you can start either a bidding or teaching table or play pre-dealt hands to practise play.

#### 3.1 Casual Game

The easiest method of starting a table for 4 friends is to choose casual from the PLAY OR WATCH menu and then select Start a table from FIND YOUR OWN GAME highlighted below in red.



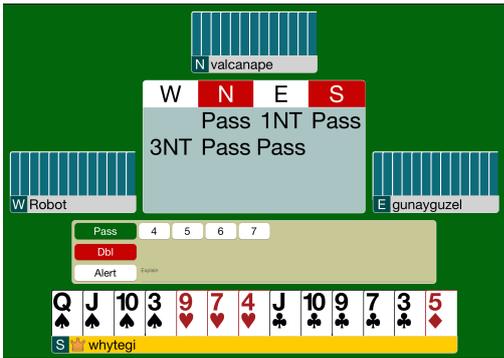
This will bring up the following dialogue box which the main player can control. Best to reserve the seats and set the options as shown.



Then press the Start Table – Relaxed game blue button and you will be taken to the table and all of your friends will be invited to join the table. You will be placed on a table and the reserved seats are for your friends.



Once everyone has accepted the invitation, the game begins as shown below.



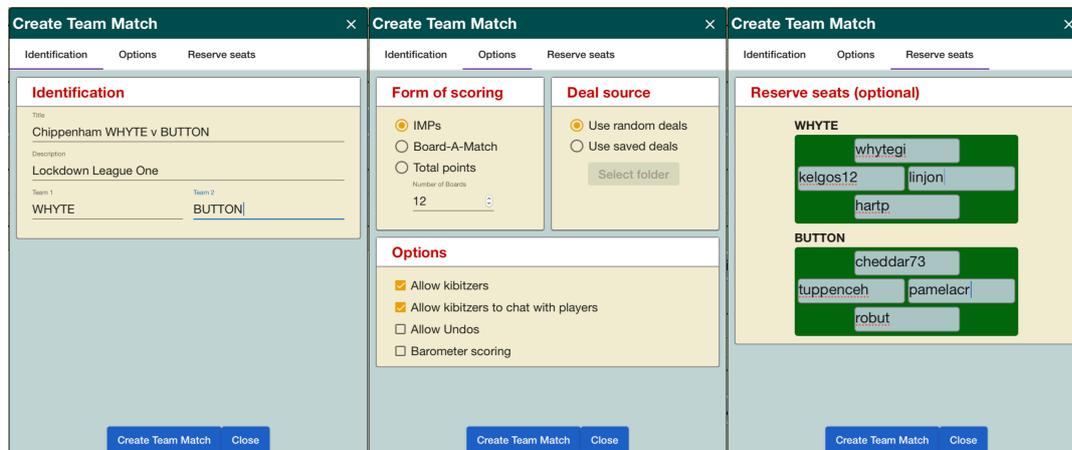
When it is your turn to bid the bidding box appears as shown. Select the bid by selecting the number and denomination and pressing OK (if you have CONFIRM BIDS setting on). If your bid is conventional then self-alert (see later).

### 3.2 Competitive Team Match

If you have 8 players from your club then what better than a team match. Select Competitive from the PLAY OR WATCH MENU and then select Team Matches from OTHER COMPETITIVE GAMES.



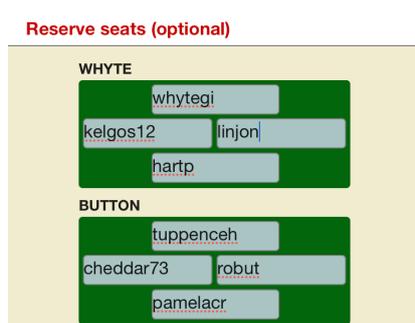
This opens a window with many matches shown and a Create Team Match blue button at bottom of screen. You will press this blue button and a dialogue box will appear that will be filled out. There are 3 tabs to fill out and each one is shown below with an example match. This dialogue box can be left open and used again to create another match. This is useful for splitting a match into two halves and rotating one of the teams so that each pair plays each of the other team pairs.



The first tab is the identification tab and requires a title, description and the names of team one and team two. Move to second tab by selecting Options. Select IMPs and enter 12 boards (or half the number intending to play for complete match). Use random deals and untick Allow Undos and untick barometer scoring. Move to the third tab by selecting Reserve seats. Two team boxes are shown and you will need to enter the BBO Id of each player. Put all of the players from the team on the same table because the system moves the players. You will become the director of this match and a Director tab will appear below the Account tab.

All 8 players play on two tables with one team playing opponents from the other team in a head-to-head match. The same boards are played at each table and the scores are compared to give a running IMP score.

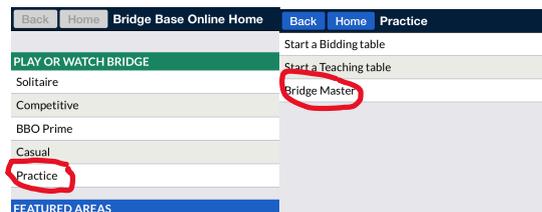
Repeat for another match but this time moving the second team such that NS and EW are swapped. This will allow both teams to play each of the other two partnerships in the other team.



This is an example of swapping BUTTON team from the match above.

### 3.3 Practice Bridge Master

Select Practice shown in red and it will display the second set of three options. Select Bridge Master.



This will bring up the playing area and a dialogue box with many pre-dealt hands that you can play.



Start at level 3 – advanced deal A-1 and work your way through them.

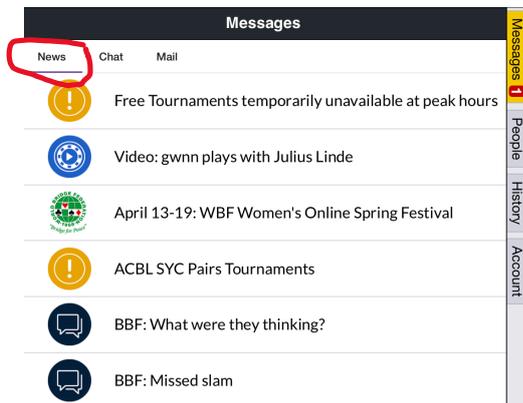


The computer shows you the bidding sequence and then you have to play the hand and make the contract. To show the bidding sequence again press on the  and it will re-appear. Press again to remove it. This also shows tricks won by each side. If you are unable to make the contract, select show solution to see how best to play the hand. Press next deal to advance one deal at a time. Press select deal to choose another level or deal. During play you can undo or redeal by selecting the three horizontal bars on blue button.



#### 4. Messages

This has three panes. The first is the news pane and will show you a list of news items about bridge. Select an item to view the news in a separate dialogue.



The second is the chat pane. This is rarely used but does give a second much larger area to chat to players.



The third is the mail pane which provides mail from players when you are offline or from tournaments to give you your results.

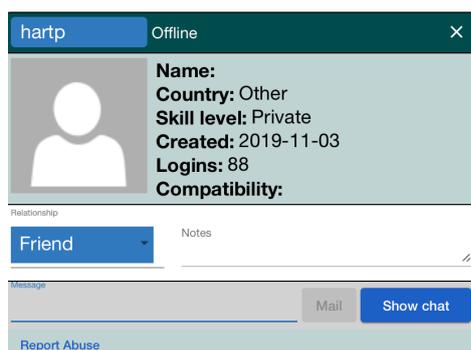


## 5. People

The people pane is where you put all of your friends. To add a friend put their BBO Id in the Add Friend box at bottom of page and press the blue button Add.



When friends come online you will be notified and can greet them. They will also appear with a green online symbol next to their id and it will also show you where they are playing. This allows you to select a friend to chat to privately (only if they are not your partner when you are sitting at a table). You can also join their table by selecting Join in top right (this is only available if they allow kibitzing). If they are offline then any messages you write are sent to mail.



The Hosts and Stars list many players that are ranked on BBO or act as commentators when you watch games.

The search pane allows you to type a name or id into the search and will list a number of close matches. This works well when people put in their real name but it is difficult finding people unless you know their id. It tends to filter by people online or recently online.

People (16526)				
Friends	Hosts (4)	Stars (193)	Search (20)	Ignores
	george	george	USA	
	gman10770	george	Israel	
	GSPS48	George	Cyprus	
	vic2182	George	Australia	
	cricket21	George	England	
	gdaven	George	USA	
	gebucos	<b>5</b> George	Romania	
	gus321	George	Australia	

The ignore pane is where you put people you do not want to bother you. This is done by selecting them and choosing Ignore from the relationship drop down list.

hartp Offline

**Name:**  
**Country:** Other  
**Skill level:** Private  
**Created:** 2019-11-03  
**Logins:** 88  
**Compatibility:**

Relationship

Friend

Notes

Neutral

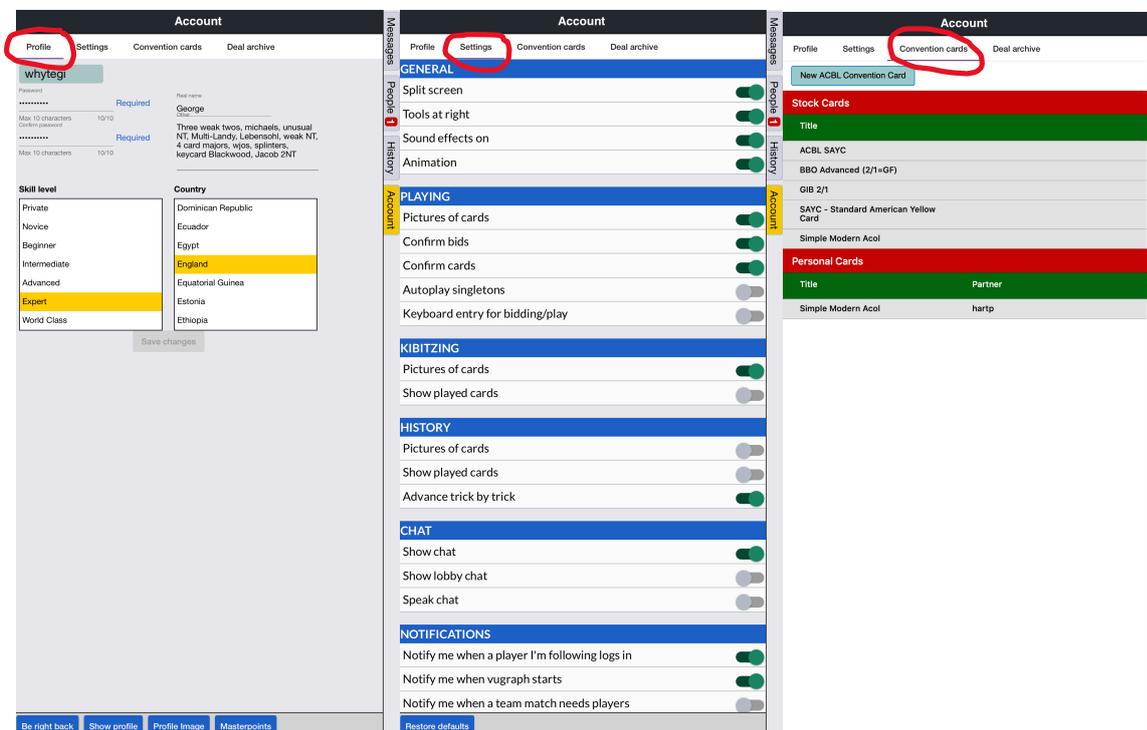
Ignore

Mail Show chat



## 7. Account

Your Account has four panes. The first pane is the account pane which shows all the details that you registered when joining BBO. This allows you to change your password, skill level, country, real name and other system convention details. It also allows you to show that you will be right back, to show your profile, to show your profile picture (this has been disabled due to the number of people on BBO), and to show your masterpoints.



The second pane shows the settings. The most important two are CONFIRM BIDS and CONFIRM CARDS.

The third pane shows stock convention cards and your convention cards with each player you play with.

The fourth pane is the deal archive. You can import deals into this or generate your own hands. These can be saved into folders of your choice. This is very similar to the double dummy analyser called Bridge Solver (<https://mirgo2.co.uk/bridgesolver/upload.htm>). I have left this up to the nerds to experiment with, but if you do need some help then contact me.

## 8. Hand Records

What you have seen so far in BBO is about you playing and seeing all of your hands. It is focused on your records. However, there is a feature that allows you to see any hand record from any game that has been played in the last month. On the home page there is a link at the top called HAND RECORDS. Selecting this link takes you to the following screen.

The screenshot shows the BBO interface with the 'HAND RECORDS' tab selected. A search form titled 'Get hands played by a user between two dates' is displayed. The form includes fields for 'Enter username:' (filled with 'whytegi'), 'Enter the start date:' (2020 - Apr - 12), 'Interval to retrieve:' (day(s) 2), 'Interval direction:' (Backward selected), and 'Show summaries every:' (Don't show). There are 'Get hands' and 'Reset' buttons, and a 'Logout' link. A note indicates that an asterisk denotes a required field.

### Opening a Movie

When you click on a Movie, your browser may ask you which program should be used to open the file. Select c:\Bridge Base Online\netbridgegu.exe. The MIME type of the download is **application/bbolin**.

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You can enter anyone's username id and retrieve the last two days or whole month of playing records that user has played. I have used this for our team matches where I have directed but not played to retrieve the results for Chippenham Bridge website.

The screenshot shows the BBO interface with the 'HAND RECORDS' tab selected. The page displays a table of hands played by user 'hartp' from 2020-04-11 to 2020-04-13. The table includes columns for N° Time, North, South, East, West, Result, Points, Score, Movie, and Traveller. A summary row at the bottom shows 'IMPs Total 52.93' and '20 IMPs Hands' with an average of 2.65. The user is logged in as 'whytegi'.

N°	Time	North	South	East	West	Result	Points	Score	Movie	Traveller
1	18:01	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	PASS		0	0.27	Movie or Lin	Traveller
2	18:06	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	3♠W=		-140	-0.07	Movie or Lin	Traveller
3	18:11	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	4♦xN=		510	12.80	Movie or Lin	Traveller
4	18:17	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	1NE+2		-150	-0.80	Movie or Lin	Traveller
5	18:21	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	4♠N+2		680	1.73	Movie or Lin	Traveller
6	18:27	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	6♥N+1		1010	4.00	Movie or Lin	Traveller
7	18:32	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	4♥S-1		-100	-3.73	Movie or Lin	Traveller
8	18:38	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	3♦E-1		50	3.13	Movie or Lin	Traveller
9	18:44	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	2♠E-3		300	5.33	Movie or Lin	Traveller
10	18:49	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	3♣W=		-110	-0.93	Movie or Lin	Traveller
11	18:54	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	1NN+1		120	-0.13	Movie or Lin	Traveller
12	19:00	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	3♠E=		-140	2.27	Movie or Lin	Traveller
13	19:04	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	2♥N+3		200	1.80	Movie or Lin	Traveller
14	19:09	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	1NW+2		-150	4.53	Movie or Lin	Traveller
15	19:15	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	2♥S+2		170	1.40	Movie or Lin	Traveller
16	19:19	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	4♠N=		420	4.67	Movie or Lin	Traveller
17	19:24	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	2NN+1		150	-3.27	Movie or Lin	Traveller
18	19:29	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	4♥N=		620	9.93	Movie or Lin	Traveller
19	19:35	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	4♠E-2		200	9.20	Movie or Lin	Traveller
20	19:40	whytegi	hartp	Robut Cheddar73	2♦W+2		-130	0.80	Movie or Lin	Traveller
<b>IMPs Total</b>							<b>52.93</b>		<b>20 IMPs Hands</b>	
<b>IMPs Average</b>							<b>2.65</b>			

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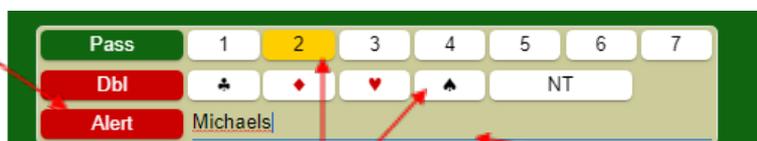
Here is an example of all hands played in last two days by Hartp.

## Appendix I

### SELF ALERTING

BBO users have to Self-Alert. Your partner can't see your alert – ONLY THE OPPOSITION. **You never alert Partner's bids.** Similarly, if you suspect that someone may have made a system call that was not alerted you can click on the bid and ask the bidder to explain. It only goes to you – your partner does not know that you even asked. All this helps enormously with unauthorised information.

1. In the bidding box Click ALERT



2. Type your EXPLANATION

3. Now select YOUR BID

Your explanation will appear on the right-hand side of the table – only the opponents can see!

