

What to do – On a Tuesday afternoon

1. Register for the session. From two hours before the session (so at 12 noon for the 2pm start) registration will open. You and your partner must be logged on at the same time but only one of you registers for both.

Log on and go to Virtual Clubs from the Home page

Choose EBU –England

You should be able to see the Herts and Essex Club listed. Select that and fill in the name of your partner. At this point you can choose to pay for both if you wish.



The screenshot shows a web interface for an EBU matchpointed pairs tournament. At the top, there are navigation buttons: 'Back', 'Home', and 'EBU matchpointed pairs #3455'. Below this, there are tabs for 'Register', 'Details', 'Entries (30 Mar 200)', and 'Partnership Desk (4)'. The main content area has a light blue background and contains the following text: 'This tournament has a 1.50 BB\$ entry fee. This tournament will be starting in 15 minutes. You need a partner to play in this tournament.' Below this text is a 'Partner' input field with a 'Invite (1.50 BB\$)' button next to it. There is a checkbox labeled 'I will pay for both myself and my partner'. At the bottom, there is a blue button labeled 'Play with Robot (Extra 0.25 BB\$)'.

2. An invitation will be sent to your partner who should accept it. Don't worry if it asks for your EBU number or tells you that it is missing. Don't leave it too late to register just in case you have connection problems.

The Session

Log on to BBO well before the session starts. About 15 mins will be fine. At the start time, you will automatically be taken to your first table. You will play hands with this pair (either 2 or 3 depending on how many tables there are) and when everyone is finished, a new pair will appear.

At the beginning of each round, each pair should put a summary of their conventions into the Chat bar at the bottom of the screen. For example:

Weak NT 12-14, 3 weak two openings, red card transfers, Roman Key Card Blackwood

You might find it useful to have this in another document so you can copy and paste it in each time.

At the end of each round, your score will be available as a running % total, top left, and by board in the History tab to the right but try not to delay playing by too close an examination.

Explain or alert your bids in the usual way by typing in the chat bar. One player alerts and explains their partner's bids. BBO does have a different system for alerting but this will be a simpler way for this club as we have a number of players who are not familiar with BBO's system.

Preliminary results are available immediately after all players have finished. If the director needs to adjust any scores in the light of events that might have happened during play, this will be done within 30 mins.

If you need to call the director for any reason, this can be done via the Blue button with 3 white lines that is in the top left hand corner of the screen.

BBO can't deal with half-tables. So if we have an odd number of pairs, Gary (our director) will invite a pair from a list of substitutes. These are BBO players – not on our player list – who make themselves available in the hope that they might get a free game!

If you have connection problems during the session, a substitute will come in and take your seat while you are offline. As soon as you are able to log in, you will resume your seat and the substitute will leave.