

Lawson Bridge Studio News October 2020

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In light of the Shelter-in-Place order and the reopening stages, there will be no games scheduled until it is safe to hold them. When asking about the August 24th reopening, Olympia DBC informed me that it has been delayed to October 12th.

I have received a couple of comments that the Chicago Duplicate Bridge (CDB) Monday and Wednesday 6:30 pm Virtual Club games have had only three tables. Players are not happy with that few tables, so they are not registering for the games. These games are designated for us, Lawson Bridge Studio. They are virtual club games exclusively for CDB and us since many of our players are also part of CDB. With so few tables, there is the question of survival of these games. So, to register for these and other Bridge Base Online (BBO) games do the following:

1. Create an account by signing in to BBO using your ACBL player number and creating an online bridge name.
2. To play games you will need BBO\$. \$10+tax will get you 10 BBO\$ if you purchase them through the BBO website. However, if you purchase them through the BBO app, there is a 30% surcharge (to Apple).
3. Registration to play starts 2 hours before game time. If there are many players for the game, you need to register early. Then be sure that you are back online 5 minutes before game time, so the computer recognizes that you are awake or not somewhere else (also see 5.b below).
4. To support the club, you have two choices:
 - a. ACBLSYC (ACBL Support Your Club) games at 9 am, 4 pm and 6:30 pm. The cost is 6 BBO\$ for pair games per ACBL website when I checked on September 25, 2020.
 - b. Virtual Club private games hosted by CDB for players who have played in the past year from all partnered clubs and their guests. This is a more social setting. The cost is 5 BBO\$ except for special games.
5. For the Virtual Club game hosted by CDB (This is from the CDB May Newsletter on <https://www.bridgewebs.com/chicagodbc/>):
 - a. Log on to BBO.
 - b. Under Featured Areas, select Virtual Clubs 2 hours or less before the game in which you want to play. You can do it up to game time, but it's helpful if you sign up at least 10 minutes before start time.
 - c. Select ACBL Virtual Clubs.
 - d. Select Pending.
 - e. Identify our game. In the left-hand column you will see vacb270876. Click on the middle column with the game name and time. Please note that the game will be identified as "combined," "open," "299er," or other similar description of the intended audience, so be sure you get the game you want.
 - f. Enter your partner's BBO username. Your partner must be logged into BBO to see and accept the invitation.
 - g. At start time, the first set of boards will appear on your screen. Have fun!
 - h. After the game concludes (that means all tables are finished), the results will appear, showing the pairs ranked and the percentage score.

By design this newsletter is restricted to one page, you may need to explore these references for more about playing online:

1. The ACBL website will have the latest regarding online tournaments and other special games.
2. The CDB newsletters have questions and answers in their April through September newsletters under old newsletters by going to <https://www.bridgewebs.com/chicagodbc/>.
3. Attached is an article that I have titled for my files "Online Bridge Instructions via onboarding_in_progress.pdf." The most important section of this lengthy article is the section on "Tutorials (Directors and Players)" as it has instructional videos about various aspects of playing online.

Some differences playing online versus in-person described in the above references that you will need to know:

- If someone leaves the table, the director uses a robot to fill the player's position until they return.
- When dummy you may move around, since declarer is playing both hands unlike in-person games.
- Talking to players is via the chat box. However, you call the director following a different dropdown menu.
- All tables are playing the same boards at the same time rather than a different set on each table.
- Remember bridge is a timed game, so be conscious of the clock so that you may finish within the allotted time.
- Time to play a board is 6 minutes since there is less actions need to start a board than in-person. If there is less than 4 minutes left in the round, the computer will pull the board and award an average.
- The bidder makes the alert rather than partner.
- Use the claim feature to move the game along. It is different than in-person.
- To avoid mis-bidding or misplaying a card be sure to have the *confirm* setting on for both situations. This also helpful for the alerts.
- If a pop up asks "Explain" us the pop-up box so as not to convey unauthorized information to other players.