

EBU Virtual Clubs on Bridgebase Online (BBO)

In response to requests from clubs and counties, BBO have created “Virtual Clubs”, which are now available to all EBU affiliated clubs and counties. Some small clubs might wish to team up with others nearby or who usually play at the same time as they do.

Once set up they will be able run pairs games of any size at any time, which will be charged in BB\$. The minimum charge will be \$3 per player, but can be set higher in order to increase income for the club, and BBO themselves suggest \$5. The club or county will currently get 70% of this money with BBO keeping 30% (after this crisis is over, it will return to the usual 50/50). It will be paid on a monthly basis, through us the EBU.

We will put the money in the club or county’s EBU account. We can transfer it to a bank account on request if you don’t expect to be able to use it in paying for your UMS or at the Bridge Warehouse. You must submit these games for the Universal Membership Scheme (UMS) but may choose to do so under Code 10, 11 or 12 (code 20 for counties), depending on whether or not you want to issue master points or grade for NGS. There will be no individual exemptions from NGS if you submit under Code 10 or 20. We can help you with converting your BBO results into the xml format required for UMS submission, or see below for other options.

From this income, a club or county will have to pay UMS, and pay for a TD if you do not have a suitably-qualified volunteer of your own. Aside from that, you will be free to run the games you want at the times you want and to limit them to your own members if you wish.

Since we expect there to be quite a lot of demand for this, we will in the first instance give priority to those clubs and counties for whom we have already been running games, or who have experience running their own BBO games, and then to those who expect to be able to train other TDs or to run games for more than one club or county. We hope that many counties will be able to assist in the process of rolling this out to clubs by having a suitably-trained TD available to train others in their own county or area.

If you have a person who already has experience of running games on BBO, all that will be required is for them to be shown by us how to set up these paid games and then you will be free to go ahead and run them in the way that you want. One way to do this would be to watch an experienced TD set up a game for another club (Skype is useful for this), and then for you to be observed by the Club Liaison Officer or another EBU TD when setting up your first game.

For those who have not run BBO games, you will either need to have a paid TD, which is what many clubs have already been doing, or you will need more extensive training as outlined below. We can put you in touch with someone suitable to help you in either of those ways.

Paid options for Virtual Clubs, from a pool of suitably-qualified EBU TDs:

This is a private arrangement between the club/s and the TDs, with the EBU simply putting you in touch with each other.

1. *Set up and run your Virtual Club for you. We will do it all - £40 per session (online sessions are usually 18 boards, but we can do 24 boards for £45).*
 - i. *Create event for each session*
 - ii. *Substitutes vetted*
 - iii. *Hosts sought for single players*
 - iv. *Results/rulings corrected up to 20 minutes after play*
 - v. *Results published with player names/travellers displayed to your chosen website*
 - vi. *UMS submissions prepared and submitted*
 - vii. *BBO name of an individual who will provide support for your players*

2. *Training only*

£100 one-off training charge – for this you will receive two sessions with a TD shadowing/screen sharing with your TD(s), plus the opportunity to join us running other sessions as you need to feel confident, we will setup your Custom list, and provide training support material and help to get struggling users online and BBO dollared up (within limits!). Effectively we will give you the stamp of approval to get your own Virtual Club login access.

3. *Support only*

You create and run the session yourselves, but we do the after event actions and provide ongoing support - £20 per session

- i. *Results/rulings corrected up to 20 minutes after play*
- ii. *Results published with player names/travellers displayed to your chosen website*
- iii. *UMS submissions prepared and submitted*
- iv. *BBO name of an individual who will provide support for your players*

Examples of how this might work financially

- 1) *A small club gets 5 tables and charges the minimum \$3. Their members will pay \$60 per game in total. The club will eventually get back a bit over £33. They will have to pay less than £10 in UMS and will have about £24 left. If they chose the training option above, it would pay for itself in a month.*
- 2) *A larger club with 7 tables charging \$4 would have almost exactly £50 over, which would be enough to pay a TD to do it all and have £10 left over to go to club funds.*

Virtual Club Application

If you would like to apply to run your own Virtual Club, please complete the information below and return it to us by email. We will get in touch with you to discuss the next steps in setting up your club.

Name of Club/County:

EBU number:

Name of representative/proposed TD:

Do you have a TD with recent experience of running games on BBO?

If so, for which club/group have they been running them?

Do you expect to run games for more than one club, or to train TDs for other clubs?

If so, which ones?

How soon would you like to start?