# Idiot's guide to Bridge Base Online

Here are some of my thoughts based on hosting a few sessions.

Click here to enter BBO https://www.bridgebase.com/v3/

## Initial membership setup

You need to set yourself up, click on "Become a member" and fill in the details. Do not use your own name for username as anyone else logged in will see you. But use a username so that other GIN members will recognise you, I use Marktts to distinguish from the other Mark Wa. I think we are all Intermediate level.

Agree to the terms and click register. It will send a confirmation note to your email with a link that must be clicked before you can log in.

## Host a table

Log in with your username and password.

- Click "Casual"
  - Click "Start a table
    - Set the following privacy options
      - Allow kibitzers                                    N
      - Allow kibitzers to chat with players      N
      - Permission required to kibitz               Y
      - Permission required to play                Y
      - Invisible                                             Y
    - Below there is a table map labelled "reserve seats"
      - Click on each seat, enter a name and click "OK"
      - Click "Start Table – Relaxed game"
- Now wait till the others join.

## Join a table

Log in and click "Casual". You'll receive a message asking if you want to join the table that has just been set up. Click and you'll join immediately.

## Accidental logout

If one member gets logged out the host needs to re reserve his place before he can re-join. Select menu (top left, 3 bars) then Table Options.

## Play

Once all have joined the cards will be dealt and you can start bidding. The next bidder will see a screen with possible bids to choose from. The suits will not show until you have clicked the number.

As soon as there are 3 passes after the last bid you can start to play. This should all be obvious.

## Scoring

BBO keeps score in a strange manner. Suggest all players keep a scorepad. Check them against each other from time to time.

## History

Once the game is completed all 4 hands will be shown but only for a second or so. However there is a button on the right of the screen marked "History". You can click here to see the whole history of the game so far, including the score. Even after logging out you can still log in again and select "History", "Recent hands" to see all the hands you've just played (I've no idea how long this is saved).

Click on a game and the 4 hands and bidding will be shown. Click "Next trick" to show each trick in turn.

## Audio

There is a chat box at the bottom of the screen but we are a Social bridge group so I suggest we always use audio. Skype works well. The organiser opens Skype and selects "Meet Now". It will create a link such as https://join.skype.com/lXL77HZ1dB1Z. Simply click on the link to copy it and paste it into an email to all the others. They just click on the link to be a part of the audio call.

Skype does not work for all but Zoom does. The host needs to schedule a call for the starting time and send out the invitation. Another player then needs to schedule a call for 40 minutes later and also send out an invitation. Make sure you click on the second invitation before the fist call is completed.