

Competitive but Friendly and Enjoyable

Playing online bridge can be a great source of pleasure especially when we can't play in clubs and face-to-face tournaments. We enjoy the game and the competition even if the social side is largely denied us.

However, our pleasure can easily be compromised by the comments and actions of the people we play against. So each one of us has a responsibility to ensure that the people we play against have as enjoyable a time as we do.

Some things to remember:

- Some people have limited experience of the technology and playing online.
- Things that you might ignore can be quite upsetting to others (such as comments like "get a move on").

Do's and Don'ts

- When you start to play a pair, give a short summary of your bidding and carding methods.
- Be careful to alert all your own conventional bids (at all levels, not just up to 3NT).
- If asked to explain a call, be helpful, don't just expect people to read your uploaded system card, if any.
- Don't complain about slow play when it's happening. (Tell the organiser about it afterwards; if someone is regularly slow, this can be addressed.)
- Be patient when someone has technical trouble. Not everyone has perfect Internet connections.
- Don't ask declarer to claim.
- Remember the rules of bridge still apply. If the captains can't agree a resolution of any problems, ask the organiser to obtain a ruling after the match.
- Pause for a few seconds after a jump bid on your right – there is no 'stop' card online.
- Report incidents of poor behaviour by opponents to the organiser. If patterns appear, action can be taken.