Partnership Practice with BBO Teaching Tables

Bridge Base Online provides an excellent service for partnership practice

Why use a Teaching Table for Partnership Practice?

Advantages

- Great tool to practice partnership bidding (as per a Bidding Table)
- Allows scripted deal source to manage hand types (as per a Bidding Table)
- Great tool to practice and then discuss play with partners
- Allows opponent Advanced Robot ($1 per day) "good AI" bidding and play

Disadvantages

- A couple more things to configure in setting up
- Cannot control how AI robots choose to bid/interfere (they bid a version of 2/1)

Summary

Most of the time a Bidding Table will be perfectly suitable, but if you want either to play the hands that you bid (good discipline on your bidding?) or discuss play style or to use the Advanced Robots you need to use the Teaching Table option.

What you need (for both Bidding and Teaching Tables)

- Browser with Adobe Flash Player
- Can play on phone BBO app as partner but cannot set up bidding or teaching tables
- Each partner needs a registered user – and the set up partner needs to know the partner's username
- Ideally you will have a hands-free option to talk with your partner

Setting up a Teaching Table – see **here for visuals**

1. The setup partner (or host) logs into BBO (bridgebase.com – free to join)
2. Click on Practice | Teaching Table
3. Select Invisible table option – otherwise roaming unknown "students" will ask to join
4. Enter BBO usernames of your partner and yourself in the your chosen table positions
5. Create table
6. Partner can now login to BBO and will receive an invitation to join this table – they should click on Yes
7. The host selects Options | Teaching | Deselect Host: Show all hands | Close (otherwise you as host will be able to see all the hands)
8. The host clicks on Deal Source and can (as per Bidding Table options):
   a. Select options just for the partners' hands
   b. Select options for some or all of the 4 hands
   c. Select the Advanced tab and click on one or both checkboxes and use a script to precisely define the hands that will be offered – see links on this page to learn how to use others' scripts or define your own
   d. Load Saved Hands from previous BBO sessions

9. The host clicks on each opponent's table position and select Robot and either play with the Basic version or choose Advanced (costs $1 a day) – you can previously click on BB$ to purchase or manage your credit

10. Now you are set – the host now clicks on Redeal to generate a new board that complies with all the above settings

11. The host can also use the Undo and Claim buttons (unlike a Bidding Table where both can Undo)

12. Both partners can select the My Results vertical tab on the far right of the browser screen to display the entire hand of any of the boards played

13. There is a lot more that can be done with Teaching Tables – especially for teaching! Perhaps you might want to write it up if you explore these features.