

BBO – Alerts and explanation of bids

Online play is, in a sense, similar to play behind screens. Every player alerts and explains his/her conventional bid or response. The partner will do the same when responding if the response is conventional. Here are the guidelines;

- If your bid has/may have more than one meaning then alert and explain. Examples;
 - Strong Club players – Each partner must alert and explain bids and responses
 - 1NT opening – Some play different HCP range. Alert and state your range
 - 2C Stayman – State if it promises a 4 card M or not
 - Transfer bids
 - Any form of “super accept” after a transfer
 - Any conventional opening that is not weak 2 or 2C strong
 - Weak or Strong Jumps if partner opens the bidding
 - Response to Key Card 4NT or any other form of Keycard
 - Any bid you make after partner opens weak 2 unless it is a raise of that suit
 - Puppet and Puppet responses
 - Defence against NT bids. Please do not say “Hamilton’ or “Landy”. You need to explain your bid not write the convention name
 - MINORWOOD, kickback and Exclusion need to be alerted and explained as well as the responses
 - If your partner bids and opponents intervene and you bid, you need to alert and explain if your bid is Forcing or NOT
 - 1NT responses to 1 of a suit by partner need to be alerted and explained “Forcing or Not Forcing”
 - Any conventional bid you make after your partner opens and the opponents interfere

In other words, WHEN I DOUBT, ALERT AND EXPLAIN YOUR BID. Your Partner will do the same for his/her bids. Unlike “live” bridge with no screens, you DO NOT ALERT OR EXPLAIN YOUR PARTNER’S BIDS. JUST YOURS.

- To Alert and explain;
 - Click on Alert
 - Write the explanation in the box that will pop up
 - Click on the bid you want to make

This will ensure that the explanation will show with the bid.

- If there is a bid the opponents make that you want an explanation for, click on that bid BEFORE you make your bid. This will prompt the opponent to write an explanation that BOTH you and your partner will see.