How to start playing on BBO

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My main aim is to make this easier for you to do and to smooth the process for everyone.

There are quite a few differences between online bridge and face-to-face bridge.

With online bridge there is:

- No counting or sorting the cards
- You can not bid out of turn or lead out of turn
- You do not have to play dummy's cards
- There is no scoring, moving boards or moving yourself to another table.

However we now some new skills to learn!

2. Practical issues before your BBO session

a. Find a location at home where it will be quiet and has a door that can be closed if there are others in the house.

b. Find a location where your internet signal is strong and stay there. If you wander around you might be disconnected and will need to re-log on.

c. If you are using an iPad, I would recommend having it on a table so that it is sturdy when you are pressing the screen to bid and play the cards.

Our situation is very different from that at the Club. We will not be served **refreshments during the session**.

d. So before bridge it would be sensible to have on your table a glass or jug of water and maybe some morning tea waiting to be consumed.

e. Visit the **bathroom** before the session.

If you need to leave the table again during play, then there are two windows of opportunity:

- after the round when you have a few minutes spare OR
- when your partner is playing.

However it would be best to let your partner know that you will be temporarily have left the table by writing a message in Chat.

On the day you are playing you will only need

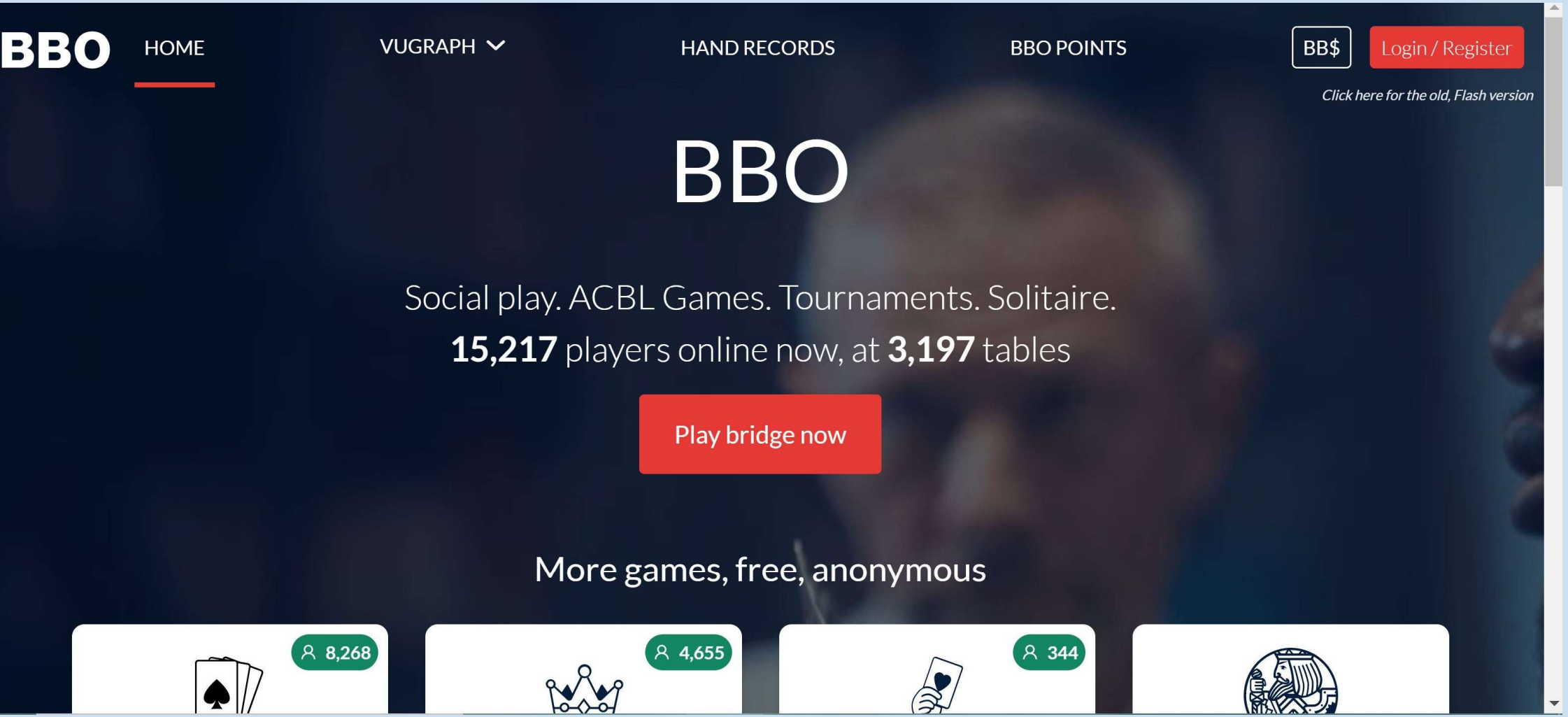
1. To know your BBO name and that of your partner – make sure that it is correct (upper and lower case letters and any spaces) or you will not get into the session.

2. To know that you have enough BBO money.

3. To know how to enter the session.

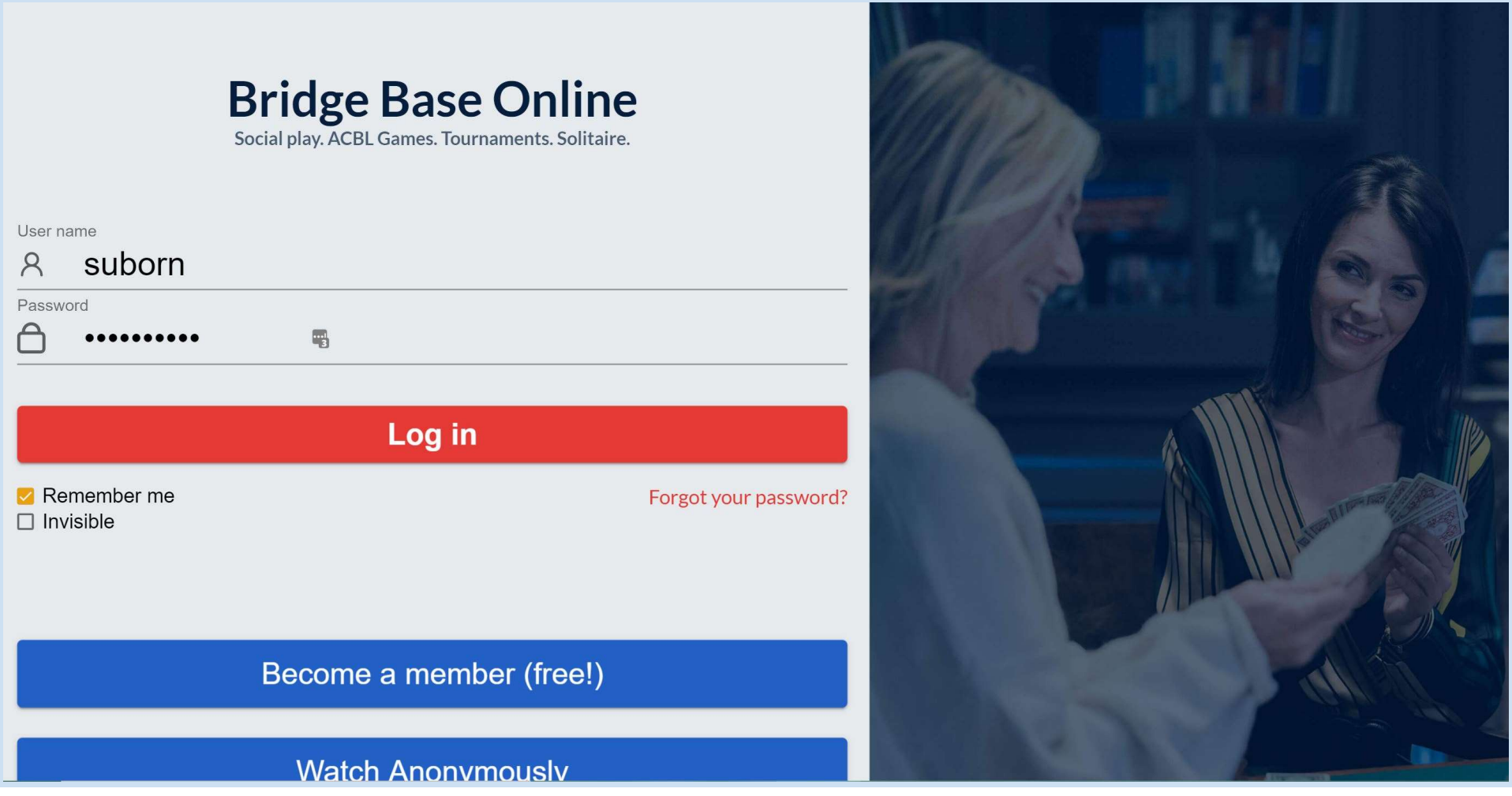
To enter and be ready to start playing

1. Log on to BBO in the two hours before the session starts



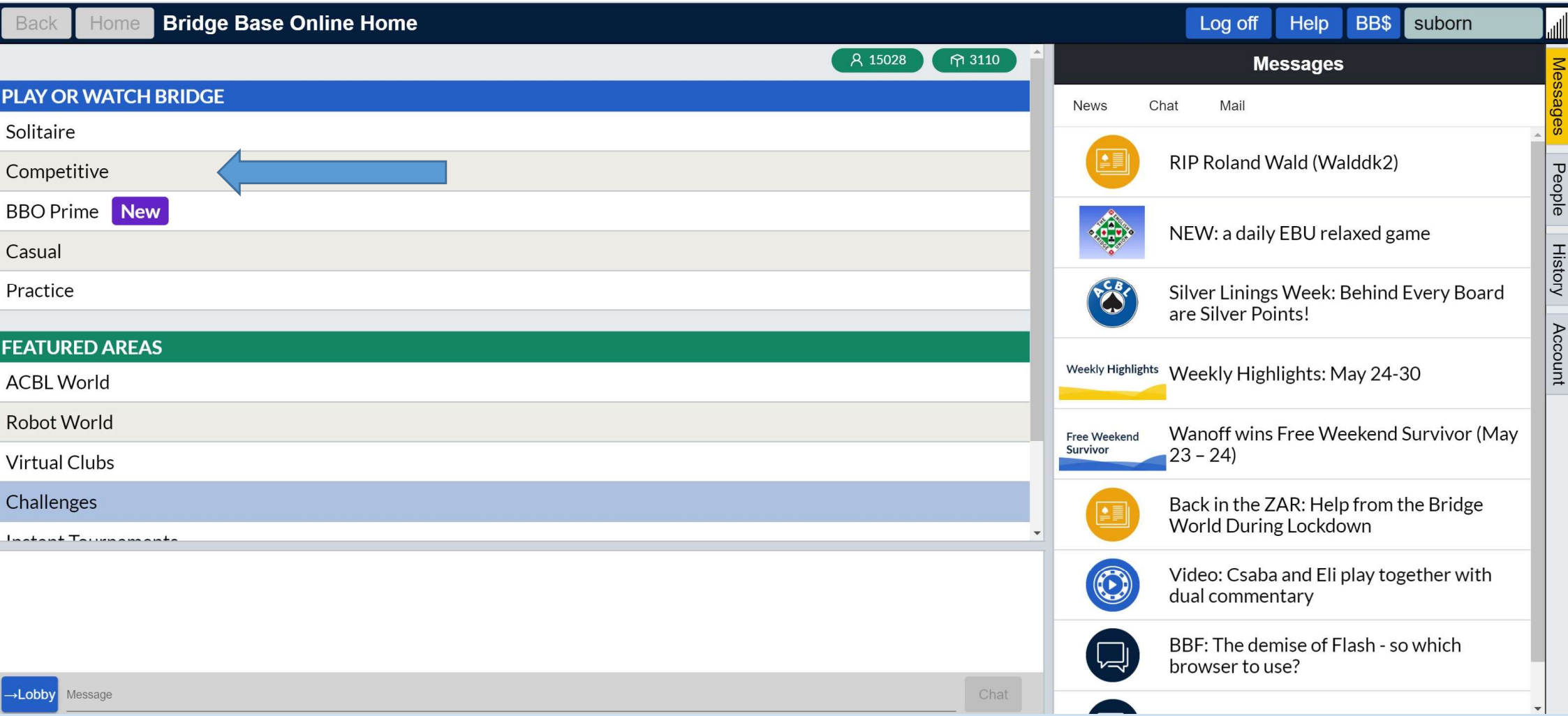
2. Fill in your user name and password. Press ‘Log in’

Note: if you tick the box beside ‘Remember me’ you will only need to enter this information the first time. After that it will automatically appear when you open the program and you will only have to press the “Log in” button each time thereafter.

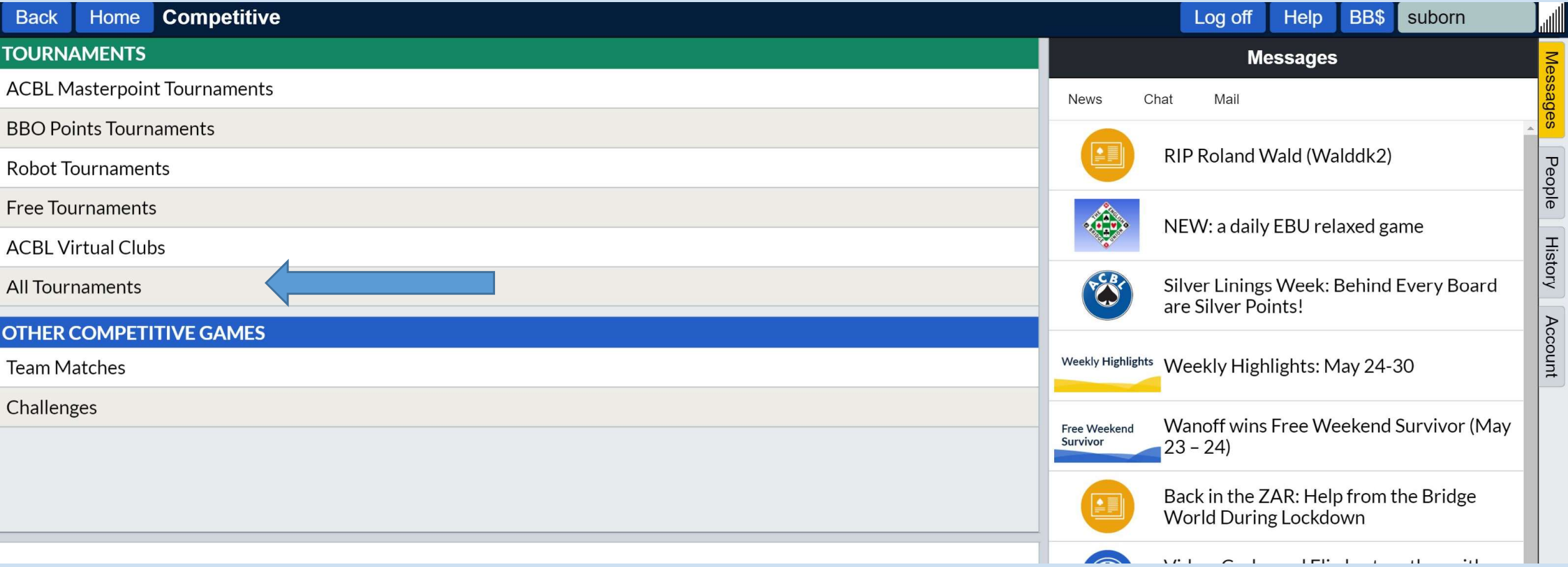


2. Go to Competitive – All Tournaments – search ‘ABF’

(a) Press on ‘Competitive’



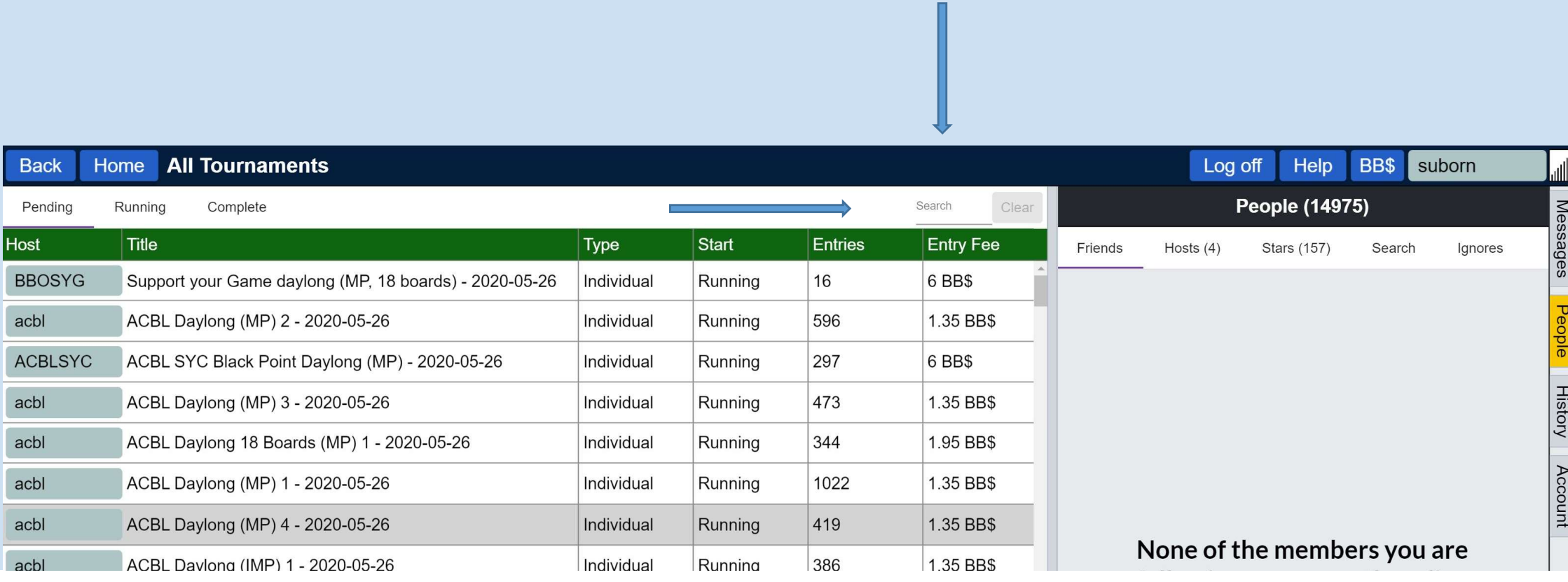
(b) Press on ‘All Tournaments’



(c) Search for the session you want to enter

There are many tournaments listed on this page.

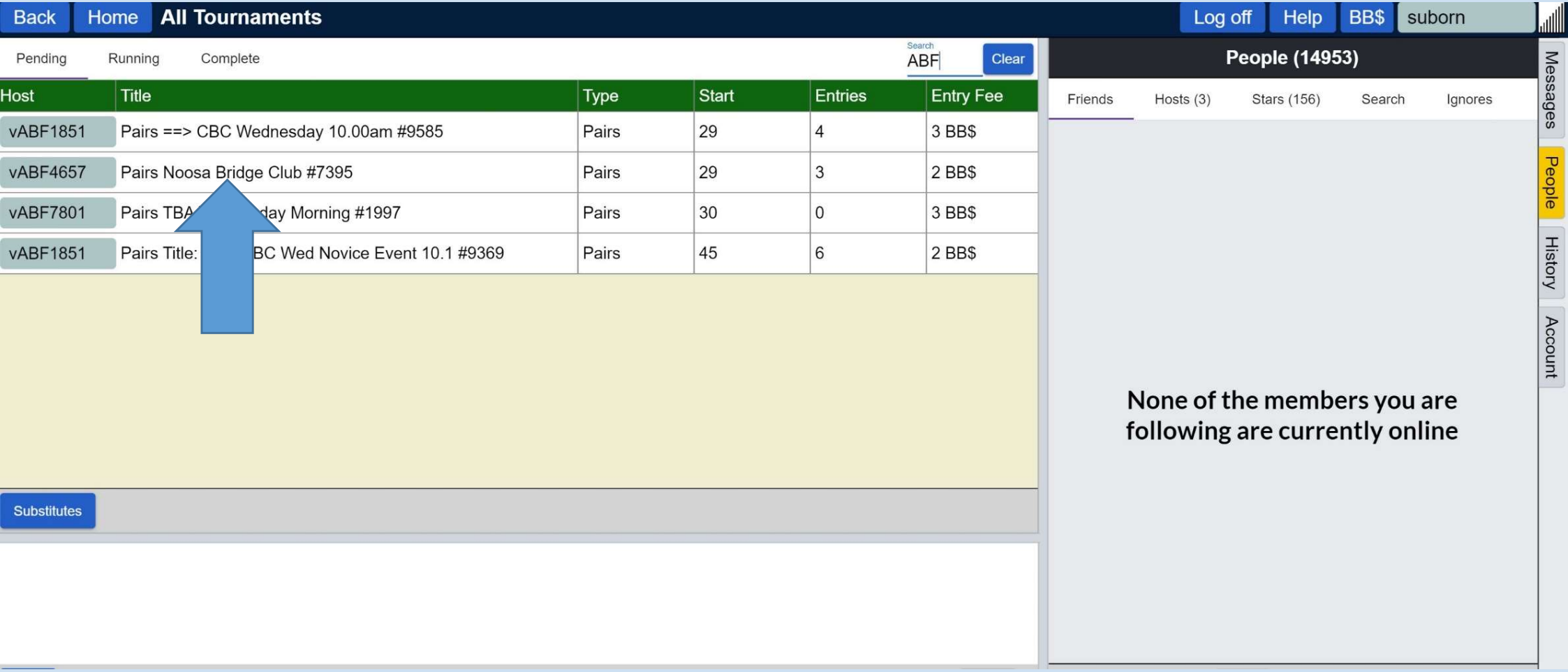
- Scroll down to find ABF in the host column OR
- Use the ‘Search’ on the top right had side of the screen. In this space write ‘ABF’



(d) Press on the title of your session (white section)

NOT the host code starting with vABF

In this example, if we wanted to play at the Noosa Club, this is where we would click



(e) The screen will come up with information on the cost of the session as well as how many minutes are left until the session starts.

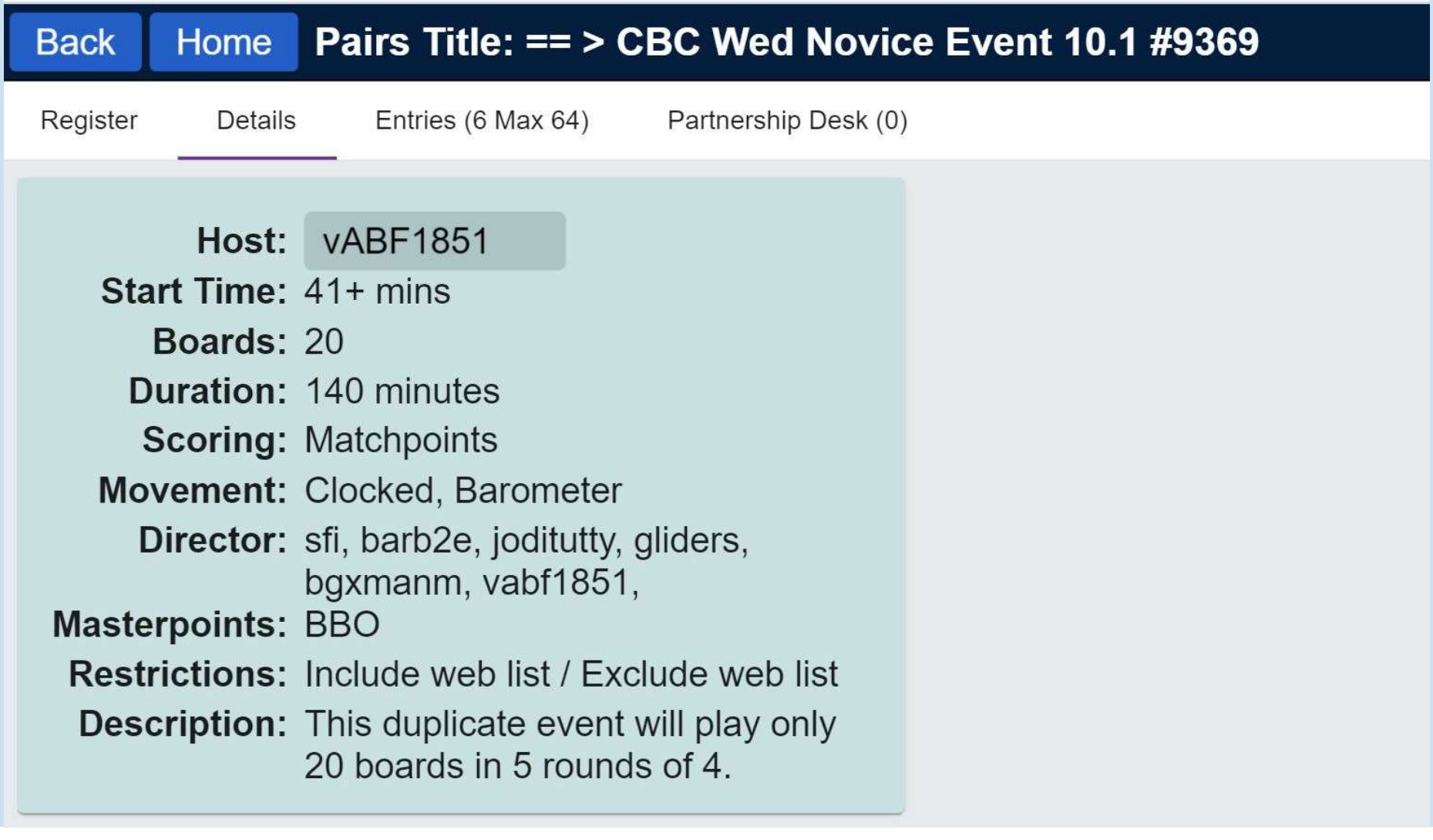
(f) At this point both you and your partner need to be logged in at the same time.

1. One person "Invites" the other to play by typing in their partner's BBO name correctly, paying attention to whether there are capitals or spaces.
2. The other person presses "Accept" on their screen.

You might have notice that when you entered the session or tournament you were in the Register area of this page.

There are also tabs for Details, Entries, Partnership desk.

This is the Details page.

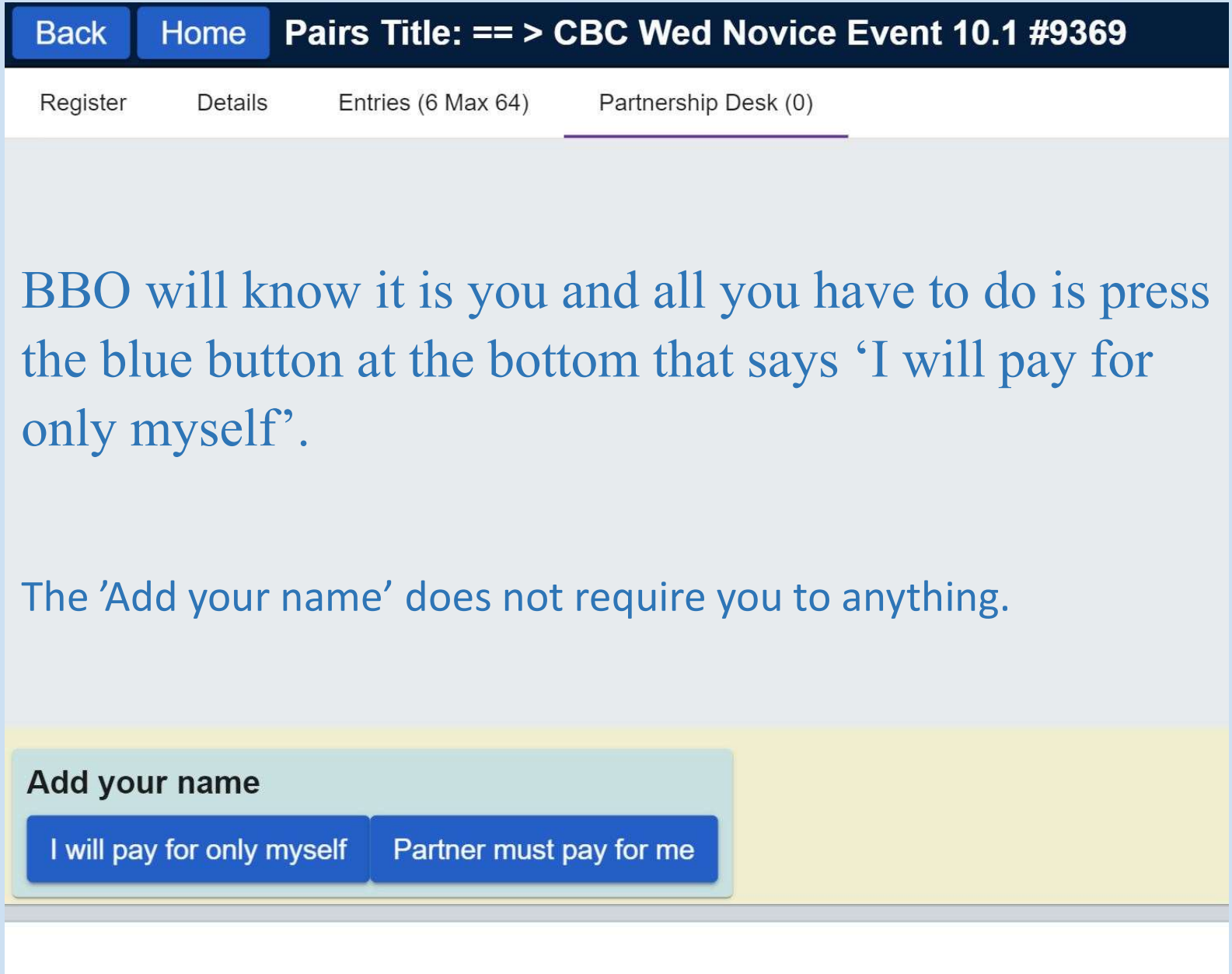


The next Tab ‘Entries’ is to show the people who have entered already.

As you will notice it is only the BBO names.

This is where you can check that you did indeed get yourselves entered into the session

This is tab where you put in your name if you do not have a partner and are looking for one.



Time goes by until ten minutes before the session when you both log in again and wait for the first board to appear at the start of play.

Just prior to the start of the game you both need to be in the Tournament section of the program (not playing in Casual or solitaire) as the program will think you are offline and you will not get to play in the session.

Appendices

1. Purchasing BBO money

2. Generating your BBO name

3. Linking your BBO name with your ABF number

Purchasing BBO money

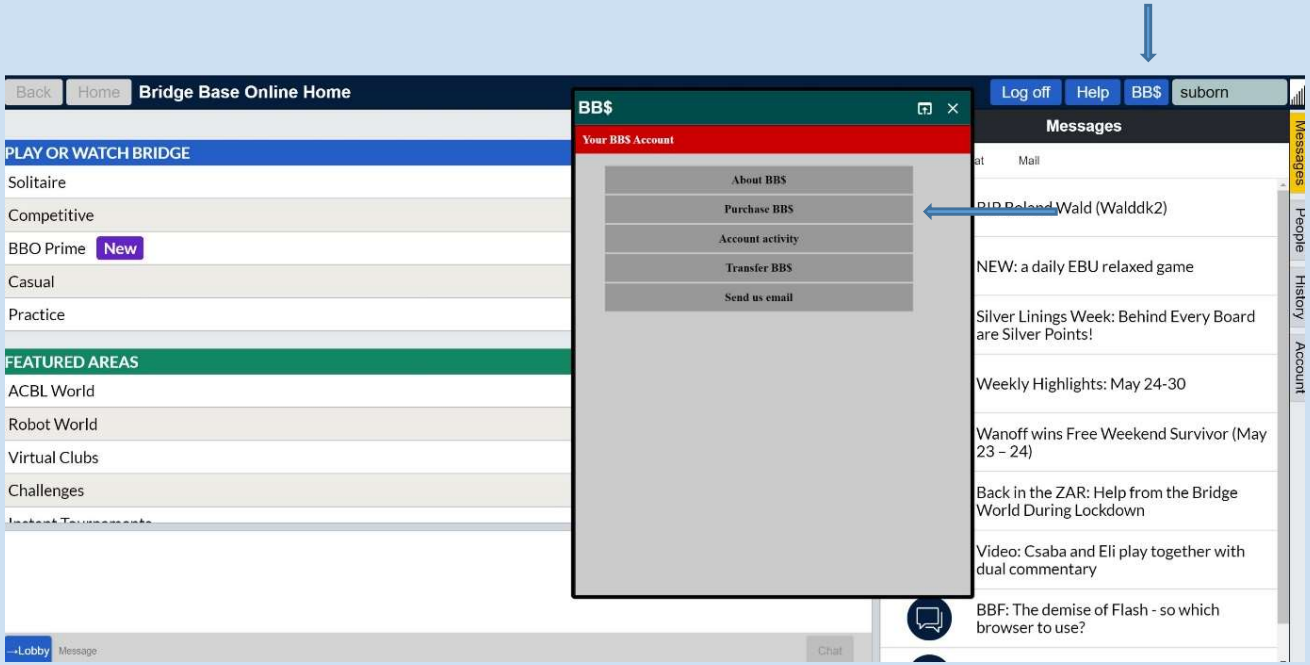
You can purchase BBO money on all devices,

BUT if you are using the BBO app, you will be charged more money that will be given to Apple or the Android equivalent.

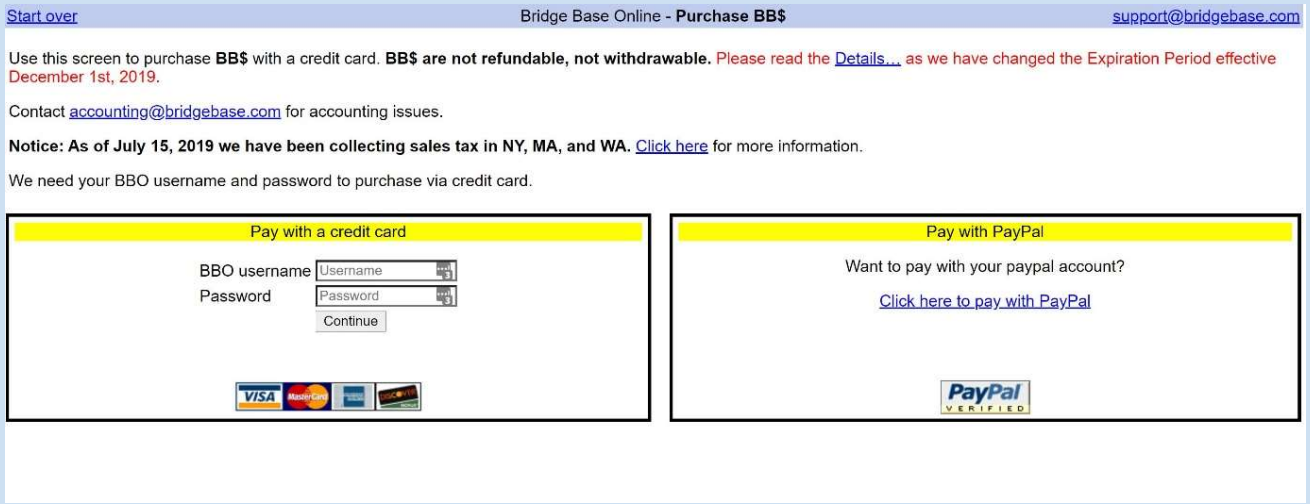
On an iPad, you can go to Safari and enter bridgebase.com and you will be taken to the home page where there is a BB$ button (as on a computer).

I will show you how to buy on the iPad app but I would advice against it.

Desktop computer or Laptop

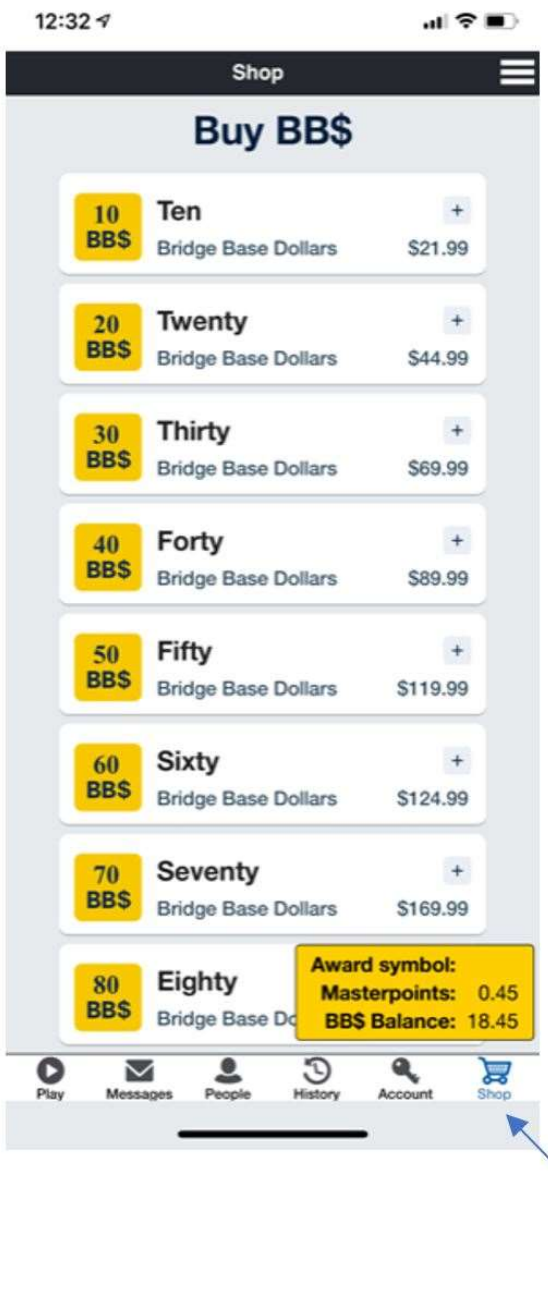


Press on the blue button ‘BB$’ in the top right hand of the screen
You can purchase BB money or check on your account balance.



You will be taken to this page were you will do your purchasing as you would for any other online purchases.

iPad or iphone



If you are on an iPad you will need to click on the 'Shop' button at the bottom right of your screen. It has a picture of a shopping cart.

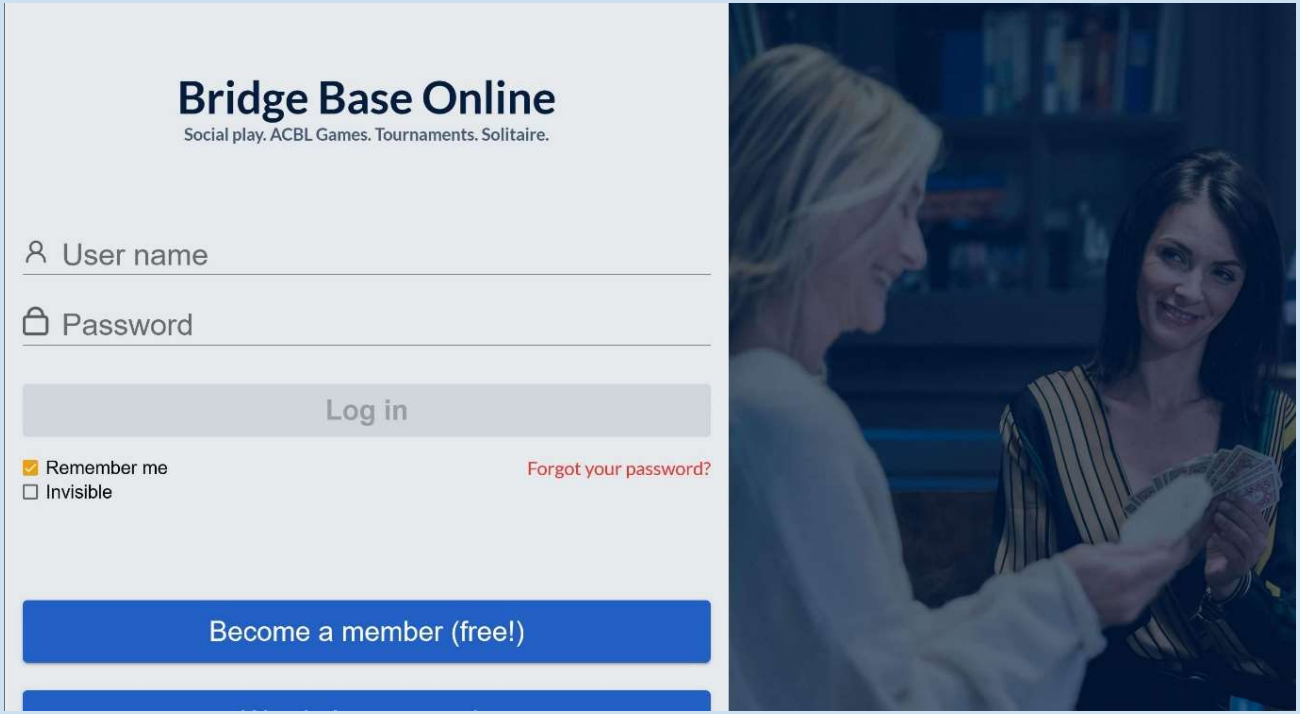
Your BBO balance will show in a yellow box in the bottom right of your screen when you initially login or first enter the shop.

Generating your BBO name

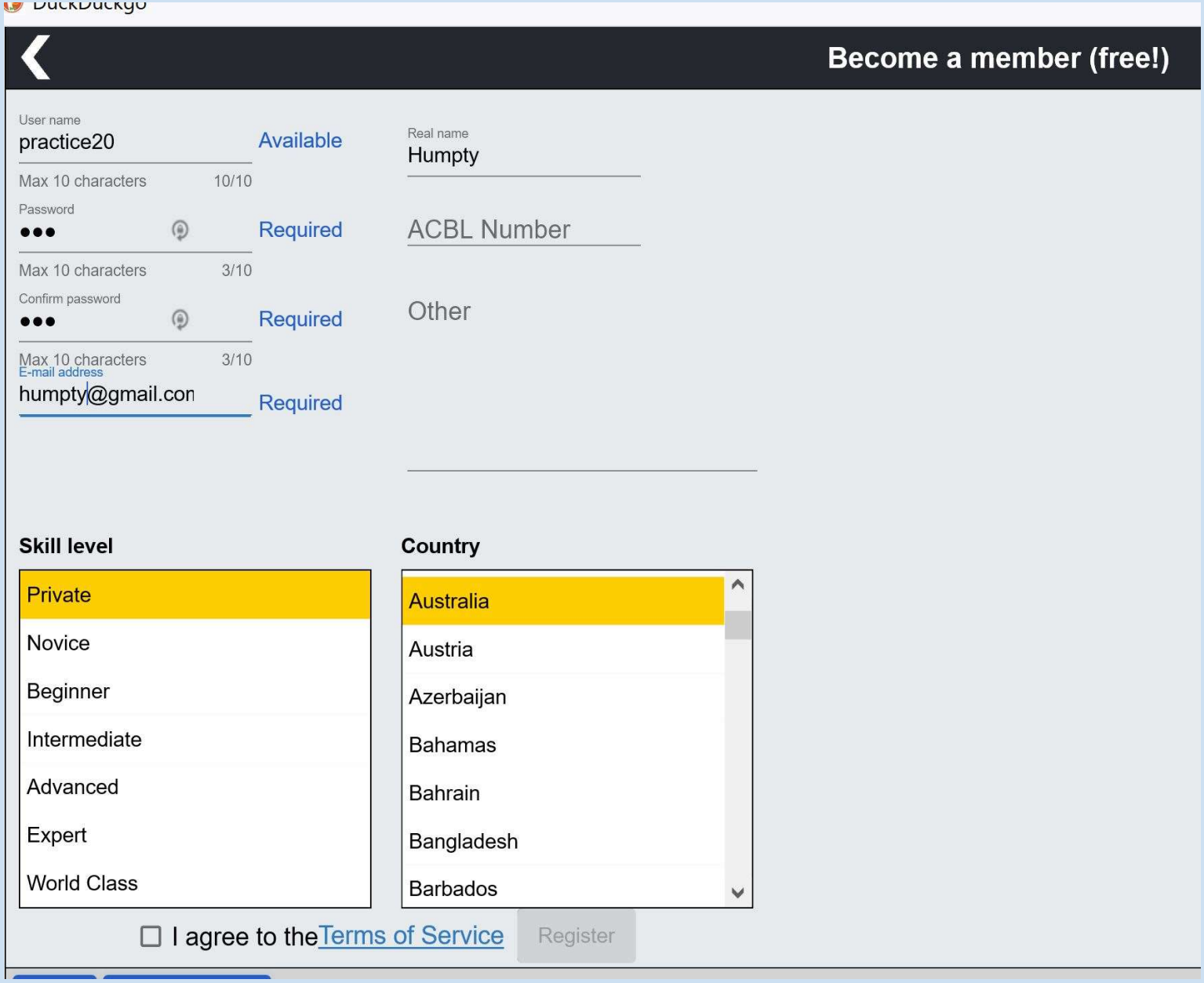
To obtain a BBO name you need to go to www.bridgebase.com and click on the red button ‘Login/Register’ or ‘Play bridge now’.

Next press the blue bar ‘Become a member (free!)’. You will be taken to a page where you make up a username for yourself and then a password. Enter you email address and real name, tick the box and press ‘Register’

There is no need to generate a new username if you already have one.



This is an fictitious example of what you need to fill in



Linking your BBO name to your ABF number

Next you will need to **visit the Australian Bridge Federation website** on http://www.abfevents.com.au/forms/signup/ to **link** your BBO name with your ABF number.

The form is simple and will not take long to fill in.

This will ensure that you name will appear on the results and that you will receive your masterpoints at the end of the month.