

NEWSLETTER # 3

23/12/2006

Dear B4M Members,

A further update for you.

We will try to alert you on your login page as to any significant changes on the web site and the information pages. This will be shown on the right hand panel at the top under "What's New?"

RESULTS DISPLAY

In the interests of the security of our site and in line with our earlier announcement, you can now only view the results of the hands that you have played. All players will be anonymously listed on these results.

BOARDS PLAYED

We have seen nearly 1500 player boards played already, and the main period of activity is usually between 1300 - 0100GMT. It is very unusual to experience a waiting time of longer than 5 minutes during these times. Obviously, as numbers increase, this will reduce towards zero which is of course the optimum we are striving for. So for now, be patient. Please remember that the PlayMoney room is not for real money, so click on the room and then on the message that comes up; this will make sure that you are waiting in the room, ready to play and not in the lobby where the server cannot seat you for a game. It is a true "lobby" in this sense and you can have a comfort break, cigarette or cup of coffee in between hands!

PLAYER ABILITY RATING

This will be phased in shortly and will now only show 3 stars. Tentatively, when these are introduced, they will mean 1*- Average, 2*- Good , 3*- Top Player and until you've played 50 boards (so that we can start to rate you), the rating will show as a 2* player. Once 150 boards are played, then the system will calculate your rating over the last 150 boards on a rolling board by board basis. Once 1000 boards have been played, then the calculation will switch to the last 1000 boards on a board by board basis. As administrators, we also have the option of overriding the setting for known top players. (David Gold or Zia Mahmood for example would not have to play 1000 boards to "earn" such a rating as we know their ability)

SOUNDS

We have changed and added to some of the sound files you hear, particularly those associated with alerting players that are either thinking or playing too slowly. We will continually improve these as we go along.

TIMING MATRIX

We now have fully implemented the timing matrix to keep you alerted to what is going on and to provide pacing and warning signals and sounds. You will know when a player is ejected for being too slow and failing to act.

SYSTEM INFORMATION

This has been updated and reflects some feedback we've had. Please note that we have changed this significantly as a result of feedback and No longer do we have UDCA - Please check and make sure you understand.

- https://www.bridge4money.com/A/information/bridge_system.asp

CONVENTION CARD

This has been updated.

- https://www.bridge4money.com/A/information/convention_card.asp

FAQS

Always check the latest Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS) as this is where we update any specific feedback items or those commonly asked questions.

- <https://www.bridge4money.com/A/information/FAQS.asp>

TUTORIAL

We have added a brief tutorial for those who may be unfamiliar with the process of getting started

- https://www.bridge4money.com/A/support/initial_stepbystep.asp

BRIDGE UPDATES

David will be emailing to you from time to time, some more focussed "Bridge Bulletins" as appropriate to explain or clarify items or feedback he may have had from you. In the future, he will comment on selected boards that have been played to add to the general interest. We are looking at providing a replay facility that includes a sound commentary, both to make it easy for us and more interesting for you. Simply click on the hand that we will put on the web site and play it back in our Board Replay System and sit back and listen to expert comments on the hand. For example, the recent hand of 7c making that was discussed recently on the Bridge Club Live comment board, might be such a hand.

In the meantime,

Seasons greetings to all from the team here, and enjoy the fun! - we are!

Nick Justice
Managing Director
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