



# 9th EBL NBO Officers' Seminar

## ON LINE COMPETITIONS

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- On line competitions have existed for a long time
  - Bridge Base founded in 1990 with BBO as a website launched in 2001
  - Then many others in many countries, sometimes linked to NBOs, others not, free or at a cost
- 2 other big operators are leaders in the market
  - Our Games
  - Fun Bridge



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- For a long time, NBOs, Zones & WBF were reluctant to organize on-line competitions
- But in the last few years the tide has turned
  - Realization that on-line bridge can complement “at the table” bridge and not challenge it
  - Strong developments of the main companies
  - Advances of A.I.
  - Development of Robots



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- Playing with a partner is used on line
  - With chosen partners, for training
  - With unknown partner, most of the time
- Development :
  - Some countries or groups of countries have developed programs not all of which are successful
  - We already have On line University Championships



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- But there were some problems
  - Cost of development
  - Cost of salaries for people involved in maintaining the system, or recording Masterpoints
  - Possible cheating



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- Development of A.I. and robots provide new possibilities
  - Mainly to play individually with and against robots
  - Different types of tournaments (pairs, IMP...)
  - With all kinds of conventions and systems
  - At a cheap cost
  - Everywhere at any hour of the day, on all types of devices - PC, Mac, Tablets, Smartphones



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- EBL for its projects had to choose between different providers but it seems logical to opt for a European one: Fun Bridge
- NBOs have made this choice: England, France, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey offer different possibilities of play during the week, for a cost from €1 to €4 per tournament, and awarding “ NBO Internet Masterpoints”



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- EBL is working on a project with FUN BRIDGE
  - No investment, no cost for EBL
  - Secure banking system for players with all major bank cards
  - 35% of the fees are coming back for EBL
  - This money can be ring fenced mainly for specific EBL funds (Youth+++ ) with a portion for NBOs, reducing for example Championships Entry Fees.
  - The system gives very few chances for cheating
  - Of course "EBL Web Masterpoints" will be awarded, with no administration costs





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- Fun Bridge is adapted to European Players
  - More than 300,000 European players coming from all European countries (On 450.000 from 190)
  - 14 languages
  - Built-in bidding systems :
    - SAYC, ACOL, 5 Major, 2/1, Polish Club, Nordic Standart, NBB standart , and you can create your own conventions.
  - Easy interface on all devices



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- EBL is ready to launch this Internet On-Line competition in a very short time
- Following your comments, the EBL will decide on the frequency of Tournaments, fees and the how the revenue stream will be allocated
- And here in Belfast you can play in a private tournament on your own device to help formulate your opinion