

PLAYING BRIDGE ONLINE

Playing bridge in a virtual set up has kept me in almost daily contact with bridge- loving friends since March. A group phone call at end of the session allowed us to chat about play and other events. Therefore I never felt that sense of isolation and loneliness that must have afflicted so many during Lockdown.



The setting up of a Virtual bridge match also allowed us to hone our technology skills!!

Returning to the Newcastle Clubs in September brought us into a wider and more competitive arena. This was more challenging and more stimulating. First you had to buy in a hoard of BBO dollars. You and your partner had to 'log on' at five and one invites the other to play in the competition. At seven you log on again to Bridge Base online and are told you are registered to play with your partner who has (because of bridge base rules) acquired an exotic name.

You are told you are registered to play and the countdown to the start begins.....'the game will start in three minutesThe heart flutters. Then the table appears. You and your partner are playing North/ South and your cards do not look appetising! You are allowed 14 minutes to play two boards against these opponents. You watch the clock winding down on the screen and with a leap of faith bid or pass.

After about two hours and the eighteen boards have been played the Results appear. The reflections follow.....'Why didn't I lead a club to defeat the opponents?''Why didn't I bid my Spades?' ' If the bidding and play go well you have a warm feeling of contentment. If it all goes wrong you shrug and promise yourself that you will be more focused and alert in the next game if another exotically named partner is prepared to play with you!!

You did not even think about Lockdown in those two hours.

Helen Hurley

