

## How to self-alert on BBO

No alerting should happen via the chat screen. When you use the chat box, everyone at the table sees your message. Alerts are for the opponents to hear, not your partner.

The proper way to alert happens when it's your turn to bid. Perhaps your partner opened 1NT and you want to transfer to hearts. On the bottom row of the bidding box is an 'alert' button, click on it, and it will turn red. There is an 'Explain' line just to the right, click there and type your explanation. In this case, type 'transfer'. Now at the top of the bidding box, click on '2' and then on the diamond symbol. You have successfully made and alerted your 2D transfer bid.

When you make an alert, a box opens in the upper right of your playing area with your bid, your alert explanation, and an 'Explain' button. If you click on the 'Explain' button, you may modify your alert explanation. If the alert box is in your way, you may click on it (not on the 'Explain' button) and it will go away.

At the same time that you make an alerted bid, on your opponent's screens, they will see your bid outlined in red and the same Explain box in the upper right with your alert explanation. Your partner doesn't see anything. Your partner doesn't know that you have alerted your bid.

That's all well and good, but what if you make your bid and then realize you forgot to alert? Don't panic, just click on your bid in the auction area. An Explain box will open and you will be able to type in your alert. Again, this explanation only goes to your opponents, not to your partner.

Perhaps your opponents make a bid and you want to know what it means. Just click on it in the auction area. The opponent who made the bid will get an explain box on their screen allowing them to describe the meaning of the bid. For example, your left hand opponent opens 1D, your partner bids 1S, left hand opponent bids 2S. If you would like an explanation, just click on the 2S bid and the opponent who made the bid will tell you. Your other opponent won't see the explanation, only you and your partner will see it.

This is a big advantage of BBO. Alerting has gotten better. Unauthorized information is minimized. All we have to do is remember to alert our own bids. I'm working on it, so please cut me some slack.