

Running traditional Swiss Teams events (different boards in each match) on BBO

Lessons from Virtual Eastbourne

- Using Google Forms to submit information, initially and at the end of each match, is a good method but it is essential that the person who sets up the forms and understands the process is available throughout. There does seem to be capacity for the forms to get corrupted and the spreadsheet formulae are sensitive to changes in related data that don't themselves contain formulae. Do use the method, but allow plenty of time to understand it properly before the event!
- Do assign Round in Arrears, for all the reasons that follow.
- The real problem is one of communication. There is no method of sending messages to all the matches and until they have added an organiser as a TD there is not even a method of finding out how many matches are playing and who is playing in them.
- It's not possible either to tell who has read any notices that have been posted anywhere. My suggestion would be to set up the Assignments page with plenty of space for notices on it and tell everyone that is the place they should look every match, not only to see who their opponents are, but also to see if there are any important things like schedule changes. This can be supplemented with emails to team captains or even all players at the end of each session/day.
- Putting the BBO names of the away teams on the assignment list is very useful – as long as the information is accurate! Using formulae to do this does have the advantage of updating immediately and allowing last minute corrections, but when it goes wrong for any reason it is very serious, as we discovered on Friday night.
- Having all TDs and the scorer in a Zoom meeting throughout is extremely helpful. This allows co-ordination of action and discussion of rulings more efficiently than doing it all by message.
- Also very useful for the scorer to share their screen on Zoom, so that others can check for entry mistakes. It's common for people to submit incorrect results – wrong way round; team numbers and scores transposed; complete flights of fancy; as well as data entry error on the part of the scorer. The solution to these things is for a TD/helper to look up the match on BBO MyHands. I suppose you could dispense with getting teams to submit results at all and look them all up, but this would require extra staff to do it and it would be even more essential for the event to be assigned Round in Arrears.
- No matter how much you tell people to add a specified TD to their match, not everyone does. If you also tell them all to put the name of the event in the match title, it is possible to at least find the match. When you do find it you can add the TD yourself if you have sufficient permissions (I think you have to be a Yellow or a super-Yellow to do this) but otherwise there is not much to be done except tell them to do it next time.
- The problem with all this is that if you are not named as a TD for the match in question, not only can't you go to the table for rulings, you also can't see if they are playing slowly and try to hurry them up - unless they have enabled kibitzers, which I would strongly counsel against for security reasons. "Self-kibitzing" doesn't require collusion, unlike other methods of cheating.
- It's important to have sent out sufficient information in advance to all team captains about how to set up matches. In particular, to warn them of the 100 login restriction on setting up team matches.