

Challenges

So you've registered for BBO and played in one of the new **Support Your Club** games. That's excellent! But what are you going to do during the other 14 waking hours you're stuck at home? May I recommend **Challenges**? **Challenges** allows you to answer that age-old bridge question, "Am I really better than my partner?" Deep down, we all know the answer, but we've never been able to prove it because we're usually playing together.

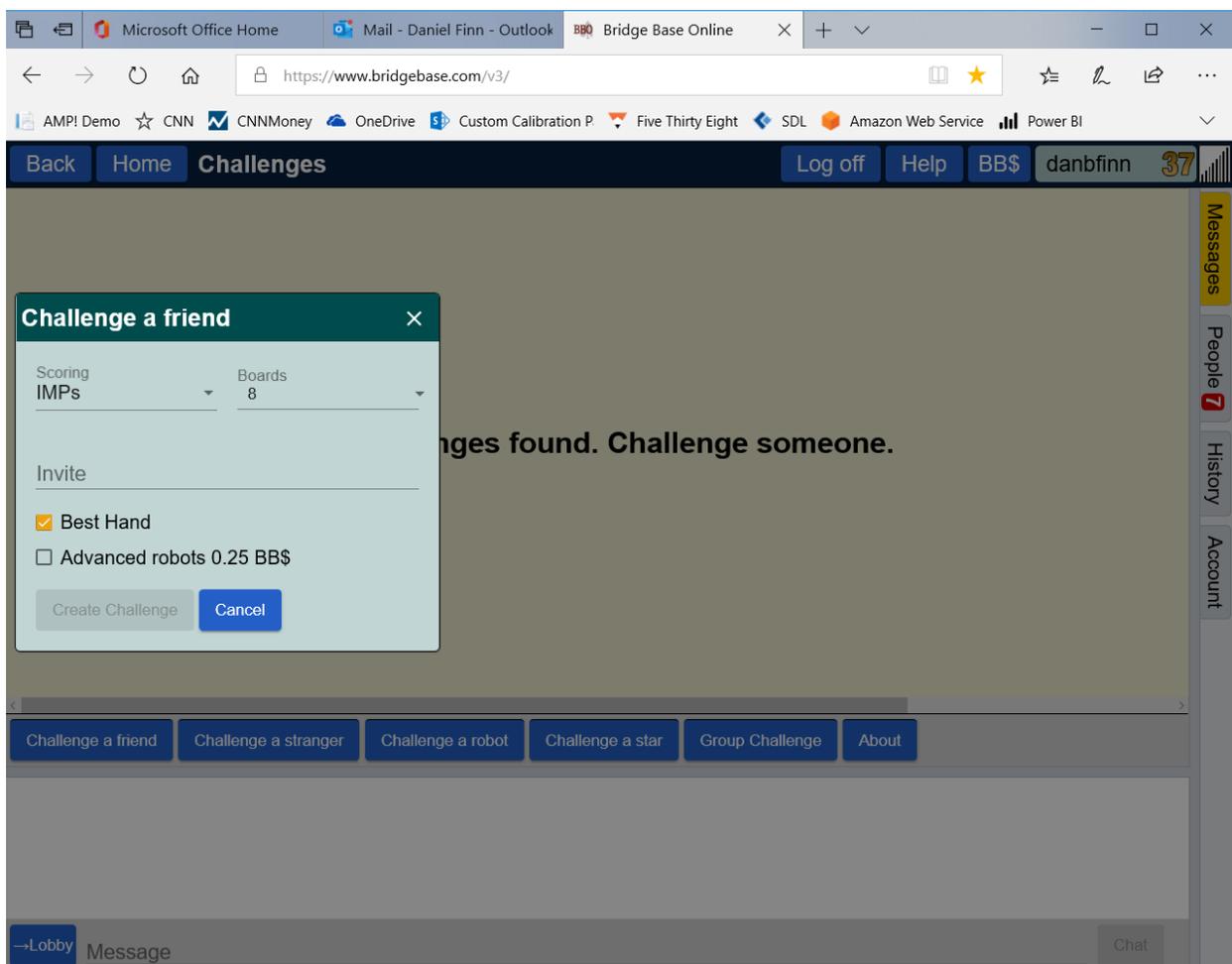
Challenges solves that problem. The basic idea is that you issue a challenge to any other player on BBO. If they accept, you've each got a few days to play the same set of boards with robots. In the end, BBO compares your scores and determines a winner. Simple as that. It even has a number of very cool features.

1. It's free!
2. You can challenge anyone! Sylvia Shi or Jeff Meckstroth may not accept your challenge, but you can dare to dream.
3. It's an easy way to practice with the robots.

So how do we start a **Challenge**? At the bottom left of the homepage, click **Challenges**. (Note: If there's a number in parentheses, there's already a **Challenge** waiting for you.)

The screenshot shows the Bridge Base Online homepage in a web browser. The browser tabs include Microsoft Office Home, Mail - Daniel Finn - Outlook, and Bridge Base Online. The address bar shows the URL https://www.bridgebase.com/v3/. The page header includes navigation buttons for Back, Home, Log off, Help, and BB\$, along with the user name danbfinn and a challenge count of 37. The main content area is divided into sections: PLAY OR WATCH BRIDGE (with options for Solitaire, Competitive, BBO Prime, Casual, and Practice) and FEATURED AREAS (with options for ACBL World, Robot World, Challenges, Instant Tournaments, and Mygraph (live broadcasts)). A yellow tooltip box in the bottom right corner displays user statistics: Award symbol: 37, Masterpoints: 3745.05, BB\$ Balance: 43.27, and Robot: Basic. The bottom left corner features a Lobby button and a Message link.

The next screen allows you to select who you want to Challenge. The most common choices are **Challenge a friend** and **Group Challenge**. But **Challenge a stranger** can also be fun! Once you've selected the option, you'll get a pop-up screen that allows you to set the parameters of your Challenge -- the scoring (IMPs or MPs), how many boards you'll play, and who you'll play. You can even decide whether the deals are completely random or rotated so you always get the **Best Hand**. Most BBO Tournaments are **Best Hand**, so I usually play them. That's it. Once your opponent accepts the challenge, you're ready to play!



I hope you'll try it. And if you're looking for an opponent, my ID is **danbfinn**. Just don't complain when I win!