

OBTAINING DEALS FOR DUPLICATE PLAY

The Vancouver Bridge Club (VBC) is currently enrolled in The Common Game (TCG), an on-line service that creates deals, posts game results, and compares scores from many participating clubs. The VBC uses TCG hands and participates in the TCG rankings for all games except the evening games that start later than 6:30 pm. It is intended that all VBC pair games use pre-duplicated deals.

Using The Common Game Deals

The preferred file type for use in the Dealer4 dealing machine are of the type "PBN." Usually, the *.PBN files will have been copied to the Deals directory and the .PDF files to the Hand Records directory for your ease of access. If you don't find them there, check the Dropbox as follows.

The original TCG files for the Dealing Machine and the hand records are found in the Dropbox – click on the icon at the top of the computer desktop. The main folder is **Dropbox/118489** (the VBC club number) that contains two folders of concern to you:

1. CommonGameCurrent - contains files for the morning and afternoon games (M,Tu,W,Th,F,Sa)
2. CGNiteGameCurrent - contains files for the evening games (Mon, Wed, and Thur)

Within the two folders above are folders for days of the week; then folders for specific dates such as 190312. These "date" folders have files for the dealing machine and for printing, for example:

- 190312HandRecord.pbn - use for the dealing machine
- 190312HandRecord.pdf - use to print the hand records

It's OK to open these files directly with Dealer4 or Adobe Reader programs. However, **never move or delete them from the Dropbox**. You can copy and paste them to a separate directory if need be.

Creating Deals at the Club

There are several steps required: 1) create the deals; 2) analyze the deals and create statistics; 3) save the deals as a PBN file; 4) create and save a PDF file for printing the hand records. There are two programs used at the club to create and document the deals:

1. Dealer4 – software that accompanies the Dealing Machine. [Dealer4 Instructions](#)
2. Bridge Composer – recommended. [Bridge Composer Instructions](#)

Both the dealing machine file (*.PBN) and the hand record file (*.PDF) should be stored in the **Dropbox/VBC_DEALS** directory for later use. When the game results are to be posted, the TCGMerge program will ask where the files to be uploaded are stored.

Game Prep

Use the Dealer4 dealing machine to pre-duplicate the board set for your game.

Print copies of the hand records for players to pick up after after the game. Usually about two per table is sufficient.