

THE OKBRIDGE STORY

OKbridge, Inc. is an online bridge club dedicated to serving the worldwide community of bridge players by providing superior software and service.

OKbridge began as a by-product of founder Matt Clegg's courtship of Merja, now his wife. The couple met in 1989 when Merja, a native of Finland, came to California to study with a famous geneticist — Matt's father. After Merja returned home, Matt took a year off from graduate school to be with her in Finland.

While in Finland, Matt developed an Internet bridge program as a way of playing bridge with his friends back in the US. OKbridge was first released to the public in August 1990 and the idea caught on. The players sent Matt a steady stream of suggestions — many of which were incorporated into the program.

After several years, there were thousands of people from around the world using the OKbridge software. Due to the increasing demands placed on Matt's time, he conducted a survey of users in 1993 to determine if they would be willing to pay a subscription fee if he continued to upgrade the software and provide service. The users approved of the idea, and commercial OKbridge was launched in 1994.

Today, OKbridge has nearly 13,000 members from over 100 countries, making it the world's largest member-supported online bridge club.

OKbridge Milestones

August 1990	Version 1.0 of OKbridge released to the public as freeware.
July 1992	OKbridge becomes the first online service ever to offer duplicate bridge.
Spring 1994	A knockout team tournament was held online involving sixteen teams from four continents.
June 1994	Commercial OKbridge was launched to 500 enthusiastic users.
November 1995	Introduced Windows version of software.
August 1997	OKbridge becomes first ever online bridge club to be sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League for the issuance of masterpoints.
October 1997	First ever online bridge club to offer daily online duplicate tournaments.
November 1997	Founder Matt Clegg named the International Bridge Press Association's Personality of the Year for his contributions to the game of bridge.
March 1999	OKbridge inaugurates the first annual Internet World Bridge Championships co-sponsored by OKbridge, the American Contract Bridge League, Bridge World Magazine, and the World Bridge Federation.
July 2000	Introduced OKweb, an easy to use Java-based version of the software that can be played from most web browsers.
April 2004	OKbridge announced a strategic alliance with Prize Money Bridge Tour, the leading promoter of cash-prize bridge events, to sponsor a series of nationwide tournaments.
June 2004	Unveiled OKplus, a web-based version that works with any browser and runs on any platform while offering improved ease-of-use and advanced functionality.