

**Why can't I see the latest results on the web site even though I know they have been published?
... a bridge player's guide to caching.**

Various members have noticed that from time to time when they click on a link to recent results they see a page showing that the results are not available even though they know that they have been posted; the same may arise when viewing the hand records. Alternatively, when accessing results via the Last Monday / Tuesday / Friday links, the prior week's results may be displayed.

This arises because of a process known as caching by web browsers.

Much of the content on web sites is repeated, for example the same logos or images may appear on many pages. Similarly, when browsing a web site, a user may repeatedly return to the same page. To improve performance, web browsers store local copies of content that has recently been accessed and will use this stored copy if the same content is required again. This process is known as caching.

The unwanted side effect of caching is that the browser may display an old version of content that has recently changed. In the specific case of the BDBC web site, the browser may not show results which have recently been posted.

To overcome this, you can use the refresh function of the browser to force it to access the latest content from the web site rather than relying on any cached copy. In Internet Explorer a web page can be refreshed by pressing the F5 key or by clicking the Refresh icon in the address bar. In Google Chrome, there is a similar Reload icon, or a page can be refreshed by keying CTRL R.

The precise caching behaviour will depend on the specific browser in use, and on how it is configured. It should be noted that closing and reopening the browser, or indeed restarting the computer, will not necessarily force content to be refreshed.

Using Internet Explorer, the caching behaviour can be configured through Tools / Internet Options / General / Browsing History / Settings.

In Google Chrome the cache settings are accessed in Settings / Show advanced settings / Privacy / Content Settings.

Further information on caching may be found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_cache or in the Help function of your browser.

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