



**Southampton  
Hospitals  
Charity**

Charity Registration Number: 1051543

**NHS**

**University Hospital  
Southampton**  
NHS Foundation Trust

# How to host a virtual **bingo night**

## **Step 1. Get your mates together**

When allowed, invite your friends around to enjoy a games night! Until then, there are many options out there for having large-scale video calls, many of you will already be using these daily!

For your virtual bingo night, we'd recommend using Zoom as it requires the least amount of setup, is supported on the widest range of devices, and has a fun virtual background feature. It also lets you share your screen easily if your bingo caller wants to display the numbers called (optional).

## **Step 2: Someone has to be the Bingo Caller**

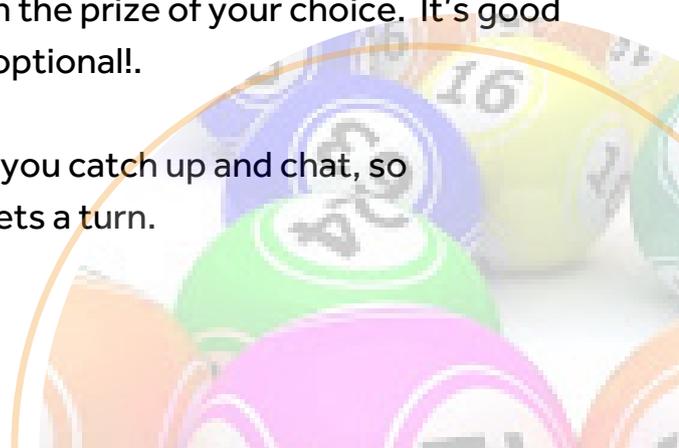
A bingo game without someone in charge of drawing the numbers and checking the winners would be chaos.

Each game of bingo you run should have one person whose job it is to generate the numbers, call them out to everyone playing, check people's tickets and ensure that there is no cheating. Telling a joke or two between numbers wouldn't go amiss either.

It is also the job of the caller to designate the prize for their game!

Download our IOU prize template and complete with the prize of your choice. It's good to have something to play for, though this is totally optional!

It will be fun to play more than one game of bingo as you catch up and chat, so remember to keep rotating the caller so everyone gets a turn.



### **Step 3. Generate the tickets**

Usually bingo tickets have numbers randomly dispersed in a grid, but for this virtual game we're going to make it a bit easier to set up and follow.

Everyone playing is going to need a pen and paper for this step. This is a 90 ball game of bingo. So the numbers chosen will be anywhere from 1 – 90.

Every player should then complete the following steps with pen and paper at the ready:

- On your phone/tablet/computer, simply Google 'random number generator' to find a generator tool.
- Set the minimum to 1 and the maximum to 90.
- Hit 'generate' and write down the number that appears on the paper.
- The player should do this until they have 15 random numbers written down, this is their ticket!
- The numbers should be written in 3 rows of 5 numbers.

Now all your players should have their tickets.

Note: The host can create these before the night, or alternatively you can download tickets from our website. Just remember to print them out before your friends arrive.

### **Step 4: Play the game!**

The caller uses the same number generator mentioned above. Simply set the minimum to 1 and the maximum to 90. When you start playing, just hit generate and call the number out for players to mark off their tickets - It couldn't be simpler!

The caller will need to remember to keep track of what numbers have already been called in case an argument breaks out. So write them all down.

The winner is the first to tick all their numbers off – A full house. If you want to you can create prizes for completing a line too!

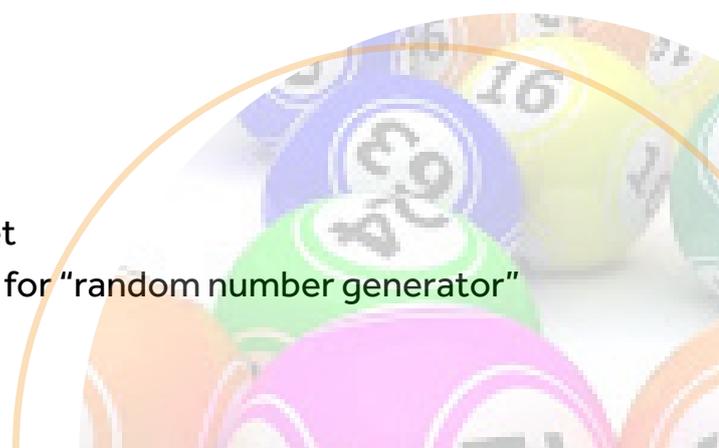
### **What you will need:**

Your electronic devices and access to the internet

Online number generator - simply search Google for "random number generator"

Bingo daubers – any pen will do

Bingo tickets – see above



## **Guide to playing:**

Each player has a card with rows of numbers, called a ticket. Players cross off the numbers on their ticket as they are called out. The aim of the game is to be the first to cross off all your numbers.

## **Prizes:**

Players could all chip in to get the victor a takeaway, or a gift voucher, or even some drink IOUs for the next time you see them. You might even consider just playing for scores and bragging rights, so everyone can take part and nobody is left out. It is up to you, so get creative!

## **Donating:**

Players can donate to enter the game, and JustGiving is the easiest way to collect your donations.

Use our guide to set up your own JustGiving page and send the link to your friends – they can donate straight to your page. All the donations will come automatically to Southampton Hospitals Charity for processing.

## **Licensing:**

You do not need a gambling licence to run a fundraising event or a private bingo night, but there are some rules that you need to follow, however...

- Each player may only be charged £8 per day for anything related to the game. This includes entry fees, but does not include the costs of drinks and food.
  - The total value paid out in prizes must be below £600 in total.
  - A bingo event that takes place over multiple days may offer a prize of up to £900. After costs are deducted, the proceeds raised must not be used for private gain and must all be given to the specified good cause.
  - Players must be told what good cause the bingo night will benefit before the game begins.
  - Prizes must be advertised in advance and cannot depend on how many people are playing.
  - Under 18s are allowed to participate, as long as the above rules are met.
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