

TAIERI BRIDGE CLUB JUNE 2019 NEWSLETTER



NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

- ⇒ The committee is looking at the cost of purchasing new tablets.
- ⇒ Ricoh are giving us an upgraded copier.
- ⇒ Extensive work has been done by Alan Lewthwaite on our insurance and as a result we have now increased our insurance to a more realistic amount. Unfortunately our premium has gone up substantially.
- ⇒ Some prices of the alcohol we have been purchasing has gone up and so we may look at a small increase next month.
- ⇒ We only had 4 tables attending last Wednesday night and it has been noticeable that attendance is down on a Monday night. The committee is very concerned at this trend. If you have any ideas of how we can encourage players to come more often then please approach a committee member. All ideas will be looked at. We have the same number of members as we have always had but it was worth noting that we have 47 members who have only played between 2 and 9 times since the start of this year. How can we change this trend? What can **you** do to help the longevity of the club??
- ⇒ The Queen's Birthday fun night was very successful and it seemed that the majority of people enjoyed having their partner drawn out of a hat.



- ⇒ Since it's so cold and you may wish to hang your jacket up in the cloak room it seemed timely to mention that the main cloakroom on the left hand side is actually unisex—lets all mingle nicely,
- ⇒ End of year prizes this year will only consist of a certificate and a pen (while stock lasts).



CONVENTIONAL BIDDING EXPLAINED BY FREDDIE NORTH

THE LOSING TRICK COUNT (LTC)

LTC is a method of hand evaluation that is especially useful when a fit has been located. While no trump type hands are balanced in nature lend themselves ideally to a point-count method of calculation, the same cannot be said of strongly distributional hands that incorporate a good fit.

The LTC is based on the premise that each hand has a maximum of twelve losers, the Ace, King and Queen in each suit (cards beyond three in a suit do not count as losers), so that the maximum number of losers between your hand and partner's is 24. Thus, by deducting the actual number of losers that you and your partner have from the key figure of 24, you arrive at the number of tricks you can expect to make. Thus, x and xx represent one and 2 losers respectively.

A minimum opening hand usually consists of seven losers. Here is an everyday example:

♠ 8 4	♠ K Q
♥ A K 7 5 3	♥ Q 10 8 4
♦ K 8 2	♦ Q J 5 3
♣ A 7 4	♣ K 9 2
Bidding 1♥	4♥

West has seven losers (2 ♠1 in ♥, 2 each in d♦, and 2 in ♣). East also has seven losers (1 in ♠, 2 each in ♥, ♦ and ♣). Total = 14. Deduct from 24 and you get the answer 10. That is the number of tricks you would expect to make providing there are normal breaks and your finesses are right half of the time (*how unrealistic is that says the editor*).

A more shapely example

♠ 2	♠ J 5
♥ A K 9 6 4 3	♥ J 10 7 2
♦ A 10 6 5	♦ 8 4
♣ 5 3	♣ A K 10 6 4
Bidding:	1♥ 3♥
	4♥ Pass

Opener has six losers, despite his lack of high-card points, so, when responder raises to 3H (8 losers), he bids the game.



We have seen that with seven losers and a fit responder raises to game (1♥ – 4♥). Let us see how lesser and better values fit into the scenario.

Responder raises opener's suit

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Responder's losers</i>	<i>Responders points in distribution</i>
1S	2S	usually 9 (maybe 10)	6-9
1S	3S	usually 8	10-12
1S	4S	usually 7	13-14

If responder has fewer losers, six or five, he will usually be able to proceed via another route.

Opener raises responder's suit

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Opener's losers</i>	<i>Openers points incl distribution</i>
1D	1S		
2S		(usually 7 (maybe 6)	13-15
1D	1S		
3S		usually 6 (maybe 5)	16-18
1D	1S		
4S		Usually 5	19-20



GINGER CAKE

Some of you may remember Nic Leefe (my father) who used to play bridge at our club up to the end of 2011. Well unfortunately he passed away earlier this month. He will be best remembered for always bringing a piece of ginger cake to share with him at supper time. I have been requested to print his recipe out for those of you that might be interested.



Ingredients: 250gm self-raising flour, 2 level tsp ground ginger, 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon, 1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda pinch of salt, 200gm golden syrup, 125gm butter, 5 heaped Tbsp sultanas, 125gr dark cane sugar, 2 large eggs, 240ml milk, 1level tsp baking powder, 1 Tbsp treacle, 50gm finely diced root ginger, 50gm crystallised ginger, 2 heaped tsp of minced ginger, 2 heaped tsp diced sushi ginger

It is best to use a 26cm x 21cm expanding cake tin.

Sieve the flour with the ginger, cinnamon, bicarbonate of soda, baking Powder and the salt. Put the golden syrup and butter into a small Saucepan and warm over a low heat. Dice the ginger finely then add it to the pan with sultanas and sugar. Let the mixture bubble gently for a minute, giving it the occasional stir to stop the fruit sticking to the bottom. Break the eggs into a bowl. Pour in the milk and beat gently to break up the eggs and mix them into the milk. Remove the butter and sugar mixture from the heat and pour into the flour, stirring smoothly with a large metal spoon. Mix in the milk and eggs. The mixture should be sloppy with no trace of flour. Pour into the cake tin and put in a preheated oven. (180) Bake 35 – 40 minutes.

Happy Easter!!

Barbara Wilkes

Editor

