

CBC NEWSLETTER – April 2024

Editor – Derek Stringfellow

Note from the President:

Welcome to our 2024 Management Committee! There are a couple of new faces – Dianne McColl and Derek Stringfellow. As she is now mobile again, Charlene Frederiksen is undertaking Secretarial duties and Gary Gibbards is our third Committee member.

We look forward to a productive year– with our focus as ever, the best outcomes for members.

As you would be aware, our Club membership has never really recovered from the set back of Covid. However, table numbers for the months of March and April have been particularly concerning. We have averaged only 12 tables per week. Some sessions have had to be cancelled because of lack of support.

We have 94 financial members, 50 of whom have in the past been regular players. To ensure the future of our Club, it is important that we see some of our regular players recommitting to weekly sessions. If you are aware of any reasons for the drop in numbers, please put your thoughts into email and forward it to the Secretary.

April and May are particularly busy months in the Bridge Calendar. The GNOT heats are running and our Novice Pairs Championship is currently being played. Thank you to Director John Reiter who is a non-playing Director for this event. It is very encouraging to see support for this Shield event from Novice players.

May Events:

Monday 6 th	Mothers' Day Pairs Red MP
Saturday 11 th – Sunday 12 th	Sunshine Coast GNOT
Wednesday 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th	Moreton Bribie GNOT
Monday 27 th	Australia Wide Novice Pairs

June Events:

Sunday 2 nd	GNOT Zone Semi-Final (SCBC)
Saturday 8 th	Club Pairs Championship Red MP (all day event)
Sunday 30 th	Caboolture/Bribie Teams (Bribie)

(Please note: This event was diarized as 23rd June)

I look forward to seeing you all at the Bridge table to make "Caboolture Bridge Club great again"!

Happy Bridging

Noreen Weyling (President)

Member Activity

Good to have Pres. Noreen and Tony back from their great trip to France, although the lost luggage problem took some of the shine off the trip.

I hope members tell me about member activities during the next month so that this section of the newsletter is more interesting.

Novice Pairs 2024



**Winners:
Karen & Suzy**



**2nd place :
Ann & Dianne
with our director John**

Novice Pairs Competition 2024.

Eleven Pairs contested our annual Novice Competition for members with less than 100 MP. The event was held over 2 Mondays, the 15th and 22nd April.

It was fantastic to see a larger field than we have had for quite a few years, and to have some of our members just out of lessons competing.

The final result held only 0.21% between first and second positions.

Congratulations to Karen Gosney and Suzy Brownlow with an overall winning result of 120.4imps (60.21%), closely followed by Ann Thomson and Dianne McColl with 120imps (60%).

A special mention to Carolyn Reiter and Lesley Cumming who were third in the first round, third in the second round and third overall, a very consistent effort, well done ladies.

Our non-playing director, John Reiter, made this event a streamlined and enjoyable experience for our novices and deserves high praise. John ensured that the players were also rewarded with drinks and nibbles after the second session and he made special mention of particular achievements by various partnerships.

It is better to grow old with a sense of humour, than to grow old with no sense at all.



A bicycle can't stand alone, because it is too tired.



The Losing Trick Count

The full coverage of the Losing Trick Count system is beyond what can be conveyed in a small newsletter, but I will give a brief description of the method and if it interests you, you should read more about it in a book on the subject such as THE MODERN LOSING TRICK COUNT by Ron Klinger.

Most bridge players rely solely on high card points to estimate whether a game or slam is possible, but how much easier it would be if you could estimate the number of tricks able to be won. The Losing Trick Count (LTC) does just that and its application is not only more accurate than point count, it is also simpler. **Provided** you realize the LTC is not designed for balanced NT hands, and is quite unsuitable for misfit hands. It can only be used after a trump fit has been established. Thus it is vital that you do not use the LTC as replacing point count. It is used as an adjunct to the point count after a trump fit has been established. After the trump fit is known, the LTC will give a more accurate guide to the potential of the partnership hands.

THE LTC FORMULA –

1. COUNT YOUR LOSERS
2. ADD PARTNER'S LOSERS
3. DEDUCT THIS TOTAL FROM 24

The answer is the number of tricks the partnership can expect to win.

The LTC does not guarantee that you will in fact make this number of tricks. The LTC answer is the number of tricks you can expect to win if suits break normally and half of your finesses work. In other words, it is the number of tricks that will be won most of the time. If three out of three finesses fail, or if outstanding trumps break 4-0, then LTC will give the wrong answer.

The calculations are not complicated since there are only three stages –

- 1 Counting your losers;
- 2 Assessing partner's losers.
- 3 Add losers and deduct total from 24

Neither of these aspects are difficult and we will examine each in turn.

Counting your losers –

Count losers only in the first three cards in each suit, the 4th, 5th, 6th, etc cards are taken as winners. With 3 or more cards in a suit – count A, K, and Q as winners, and anything else in the top 3 cards as losers. With only 2 cards in a suit – count A and K as winners and anything lower is a loser. With 1 card only in a suit – count A as a winner, and anything else as a loser.

There is never more than 3 losers in a suit. There are never more losers in a suit than the number of cards in a suit. The number of losers in the following suit holdings are –

Holdings	Losers	Holdings	Losers	Holdings	Losers
J986	3	AKQ54	0	A64	2
AK7	1	KQJ	1	K	1
KQ	1	Q10	2	A	0

A Q as top of a 3 or more card holding is taken as 1/2 a loser – eg. A holding of Q984 is a 2 1/2 loser hand.

Assessing partner's losers –the actual losers vary with strength–

As points increase, the losers decrease. As points decrease, the losers increase. The more unbalanced a hand, the fewer the losers. The more balanced, the more losers.

The average minimum opening hand is around the 7 loser mark. You calculate partner's losers based on the strength revealed in the bidding. A simple guide for this would be as follows –

Points	Description of strength	Loser expectancy
13 -15	Sound minimum opening	7 losers
16 -18	Strong opening – 1NT	6 losers
19 -21	Very strong opening	5 losers
22 up	Game force opening	4 losers
10 -12	Just below normal opening	8 losers
7 – 9	Well below sound opening	9 -10 losers

Accordingly if the bidding begins -

Partner	You
1C	1H
2H ...	

Partner has shown a minimum opening, thus you should assess that he has 7 losers.

Had the bidding started -

Partner	You
1C	1H
3H	

Partner has shown a stronger hand. As partner is bidding for one trick more, you are entitled to expect one loser less. The normal holding for that sequence is 6 losers.

If the bidding had been -

Partner	You
1C	1H
4H	

Partner would be showing a very strong hand. As a minimum rebid would be 2H, partner's jump to 4H is two tricks extra, and so should hold two losers less. The normal holding for this sequence would be 5 losers.

S K98643	You hold this hand and the bidding goes-West	North	East(you)	South
H 7		1D	P	1S
D 43		4S	P	?

C A842 Your thoughts should now speed quickly along these lines – “We have a trump fit, and I hold 7 losers. Partner has shown 2 tricks less than a minimum opening and so should have 5 losers. $7+5=12$ and $24-12=12$. So we have the potential for 12 tricks, and thus a slam. I must therefore keep bidding to check for aces etc. and not pass it out.”

Full deal was as follows –

West	North	East	South	
S AQ75	J2	K98643	10	The lead was H4. When dummy is tabled you are pleased that you bid on to slam.
H 10 6	AQ95	7	KJ8432	You ruff the 2 nd heart, draw trumps in 2
D AKJ62	Q975	43	10 8	rounds and ruff your club losers in
C K9	J75	A842	Q1063	dummy and ruff the 3 diamond losers in
				your hand, for a good slam, which a lot
				of pairs would miss.

The LTC can also guide you on whether you go to game, invite game or pass out at a 2 level bid.

S K76543 You hold the hand to the left, and partner opens the bidding 1S. You only have
 H 8 7HCP's, but you only have 7 losers, and thus 10 tricks (24-12=10) appears
 D 72 possible as you have a very good trump fit. So you would Jump to 4S as partner
 C A7432 may pass a lower bid if he has a minimum hand. Partner's hand was as follows-

S AQ852 Thus despite only having 19 HCP's between the 2 hands, opener only has a
 H AQ2 minimum opening hand, but the 4S bid is easily makeable, with only two
 D 862 diamonds and one club suit losers. Thus the LTC system can guide pairs to
 C 98 to a game which would be missed by a lot of partnerships.

The LTC system can be used even when partner has shown a balanced hand when you have an unbalanced hand, indicating to you a level to which you should bid.

S 8 I was sitting E with the hand on the left, when my partner opened 1NT. This
 H A indicated that she held a 15-18 HCP hand with 5-6 losers. As my hand was a 5 1/2
 D AJ73 loser count hand, we had a possible slam combination, as she must have at
 C Q976543 least 2 clubs, the slam combination should be explored. The bidding then went
 as follows –

West	North	East	South	
1NT	P	3C(1)	P	(1) enough points for game and long clubs
3NT	P	4NT(2)	P	(2) normal Blackwood
5H(3)	P	6C		(3) showing 2 aces

I was worried about whether partner held CK, and was relieved when dummy was tabled. The full deal was as follows –

	S J952		The lead was the DK.
	H J10632		The 6C slam made, and a 6NT slam
	D 5		could be made. But I did not think of
	C J108		it, when I realised we had a trump
S AQ106		S 8	fit. Other players finished in 3NT,
H KQ84		H A	by not using the Losing Trick Count
D 986		D AJ3	after a trump fit has been
C AK		C Q976543	established, missed this slam where
	S K743		partnership only had 29 HCP's.
	H 975		
	D KQ1042		
	C 2		

What is the difference between **complete** and **finished**?

When you marry the right woman you are complete. When you marry the wrong woman you are finished, and when the right one catches you with the wrong one you are completely finished.

When a clock is hungry, it goes back 4 seconds.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.



FROM THE DESK OF OUR MASTERPOINT SECRETARY.

We have had quite a few promotions this year.
Congratulations to the following members:

Margaret Courtney	-	Bronze local
Karen Jorin	-	Regional
Rosemary Floquet	-	National
Debbie Gibbards	-	Bronze Life
Chris Nelson	-	Local
Dianne McColl	-	Bronze Local
John Reiter	-	Bronze National
Hugh Gehrman	-	Bronze Life