Mini Lesson

When to Open a Weak Two in 1st and 2nd Seat using the Losing Trick Count.

Use the LTC as your guideline as to whether to preempt in 1st and 2nd seat or not? Suit Quality is most important as the suits should have 2 of the top 3 honors. AK or KQ or AQ plus length. If the Jack, we need 10 's and 9's to give the suit less losers.

Counting losers are as follows:

Missing Aces, Kings and Queens in each suit.
Count the losers in each suit according to how many cards in each suit. If you have a singleton= 1 loser (missing an Ace) A doubleton = 2 losers(missing an Ace and King) etc.

An unsupported Qxx = 3 losers   QJx = 2 losers   Q10x = 2 ½ losers.

When we open a Weak Two we either have a maximum 8 loser or a minimum 7 loser hand.

e.g. A.♠ AQ7653 =1 loser   B.♠ 43= 2 losers
     ♥ 9 = 1 loser   ♥ KQJ843=1 loser
     ♦ 542 = 3 losers   ♦ K75 = 2 losers
     ♣ 865 = 3 losers = Total **8 losers**   ♣ 32 = 2 losers = Total **7 losers**

Responder requires ruffing potential or playing TRICKS.

Responder

e.g. ♠ 982
     ♥ 653
     ♦ AK76
     ♣ AK3   Should opener open 2 ♥ you have 4 playing tricks.

If opener has 8 losers example A.
Deduct 8 losers from 13 tricks = will give us 5 playing tricks (winners) + our 4 tricks (winners) = 9   No Game!
If opener has 7 losers example B.
Deduct 7 losers from 13 = will give us 6 playing tricks + our 4 tricks = 10 Game!
6/4 shapes might have 6 losers and are the same for weak jump overcalls. Too strong!

Using the LTC over Preempts:

If your long suit is easy to determine, we then count "PLAYING TRICKS". 13 minus the number of losers.

e.g. ♠ 3 ♥ QJ109654 ♦ 9 ♣ J987. With ♥ 's as the trump suit, we have the following losers- 1♠ + 2♥ + 1♦ +3 ♣ = 7 losers from 13 gives us 6 playing tricks. Open 3♥ and forget about points. When we preempt we learnt about the Rule of 2 + 3 expecting to go down 2 vulnerable and 3 not vulnerable.

If you have a 7 – card major suit with a side 4 –card suit and a 6- loser hand open 4 of the major!