

# REVVING UP WITH THE REV

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## *(Tables and Membership)*

By the time you read this, the Christmas season will be waning and everybody will be getting geared up for 2021.

In late November, Men's Club member Wynne Wright offered to buy me a calculator for Christmas. It got me thinking about calculators.

In 1973, at the age of 35, I began an Arts Course at Western University in London. One of the courses I took in first year was Business Administration. Hand calculators had only come into use in 1967, so they were still pretty new when I began university and we were not allowed to use a calculator in that Business Administration class. What did we use? A slide rule!

Within a year or two, it was mandatory that my daughters have a calculator for their math classes.

In the present era, of course, we don't need a hand calculator as we can do everything we need to do on our ever-present cell phone.

Anyway, back to my saying that Wynne Wright had offered to buy me a calculator for Christmas. That's not exactly what he said, more like the fact that I needed one. Ummm, that's not quite right either. Using other words, he did say that I, obviously, couldn't count! But I mean, that's really laying down the gauntlet, ain't it now?

Okay, here's his exact wording:

"You have made various announcements during meetings on behalf of the Membership Committee. At least twice, you have said that we have 25 tables that need to be filled up for each in-person meeting. That is incorrect! There are 20 tables."

So I'm gettin' all defensive and thinking, "Wynne's an accountant and I'm not, but I've generally been able to count to 25. On a good day, I can get clean to 30. So how does he know that I'm wrong?"

Wynne went on to explain why he knew there were only 20 tables:

"I know that number very well, because of an incident in 2012 or 2013. One Tuesday morning, Bruce McIntosh, Don Webb and I did the coffee

setup at the Italian Canadian Club, without paying much attention to the tables. When the members started coming in about 9 am it was obvious that something was wrong. There was mass confusion as members tried to find their tables, and we discovered that we were one table short.

I have never seen such chaos, and even a few arguments, as people finally settled themselves into familiar or unfamiliar spots. It was quite a sight!

From that day on, the first thing we did when we went into the ICC was to count the tables. Over the years, there has been the odd occasion when the count was wrong, and we had to set up an additional table or two."

So I begin to think that, obviously, given his experience, Wynne should know what he's talking about. Then it hit me, and I replied, "Don't blame it on me if it's wrong! I got that number 25 from Allan Dyer."

Then I thought further and I realized the problem. Last January, Allan asked me to put numbers on the tables for a couple of weeks running—it had to do with new members sitting at different tables for a few weeks and recording the table number for each week. How did we get a table count of 25?

Some members sit along the left side of the room at the ICC. There are five panels, so each of those panel areas is equivalent to one table and...voila, there's yer 25 tables!

Now...here's the point of the 25 tables to begin with. Due to deaths of members, and resignations for whatever reasons, we need to continually recruit new members. Currently, it means recruiting about 50 this year. The math is simple—each table group is responsible for recruiting two new members over the next year.

So, talk with the other members of your table group. Collectively, I'm convinced we can do it. But it takes all of us.

Remember...we build strong today so that we're stronger tomorrow!

(P.S. By the way Wynne, I'm sure I still have that slide rule around here somewhere...if you ever want to borrow it!)

**Tom Watson**