



Tuesday Night Tips

The Sydney Bridge Centre mini lesson

The Tuesday night has returned to Face-to-face on 16th November. Martin Clear continues to host and play in the Tuesday night game on Goulburn Street and to lead the group for bridge discussion after the session. You can actually meet Martin in person! Martin will now pick an interesting hand from the Tuesday night F2F session. Join your bridge buddy for a face to face play on Tuesday night (7.15pm start)!

Covering Honours

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 16th November 2021

16	♠ 9542	Dlr: W
	♥ A42	Vul: E-W
	♦ AKQ72	
	♣ 2	
♠ AKQ73	♠ J8	13
♥ KQ	♥ 97653	22 2
♦ J9	♦ 3	3
♣ AK95	♣ JT763	
	♠ T6	
	♥ JT8	
	♦ T8654	
	♣ Q84	

One of the things that really separates above-average defenders from below-average defenders is the covering of honours that declarer has led. It's a subject that has some complex exceptions, but there are a few basic principles that less experienced players sometimes struggle with, so I'm going to go through some of those principles today, and then give an example from live play of what can go wrong.

What is 'covering an honour'? When declarer leads (from dummy or the closed hand) an honour card, the defender in second seat may have a higher honour and has to choose whether to play that honour on the card led. Why would you do that? Here we come to the fundamental principle

of covering honours, and which defenders sometimes lose sight of:

The purpose of covering an honour is to hopefully make a winner out of a lower card that the defenders hold.

That's the main reason to cover (there are other reasons to occasionally play high from second seat, but the purpose of covering honours is promoting lower cards to be winners). Here's a simple example: The Q is led from Qxx in dummy, and you hold KT9. This is declarer's trump suit. If you let the Queen go past, declarer is likely to lead a small card on the next round to his Jack, and then the Ace will draw your King on the third round. But if you put your King on the Queen, sure, declarer will win with the Ace ... but then his Jack can later draw only one of your Ten and 9, so you are guaranteed a trick.

Most defenders get that one right, but some of the time the card you are promoting is held by partner. In a side suit, declarer leads J from dummy's Jxx, and you have Kxx. If declarer has AQ9x, failing to cover the J with the K will see declarer win the Jack, the Queen and the Ace in that order and then the last trick. If you cover the J with the K, declarer wins the A and then the Q, but he can do nothing to stop your partners Txx from being promoted into a trick.

There is one more covering principle:

Do not cover an honour from dummy that is one of two or more touching honours; instead cover the last of the equal honours when it is led from dummy later.

This may not always be possible. If you have King-doubleton over QJx, you should cover the first honour led because your King may have to be played on nothing on the second round if you don't cover on the first round. The reason you cover the latter honour is for a position such as dummy having QJx, you sitting over it with Kxx, declarer's hand having A987 and partner having Txx. If you cover the J, declarer will win the Ace and be able to finesse the 9 through your partner's Ten to avoid any loser in the suit. But if you let the Queen go, declarer must lose a trick whether on the next round he leads the J for you to cover (promoting partner's Ten), or leads low and partner's Ten and your King must score a trick between them.

In general you should cover an honour based on that first principle I mentioned: can it possibly generate a trick for your side? The times when you should not cover are when it is known that you cannot gain your side a trick. A classic example came up on Tuesday night in the restarted face-to-face play at the Sydney Bridge Centre (7.15pm).

West opened 2♣, perhaps mesmerising North who passed. East bid 2♦ to show 0-7 points, and West bid 2♠. East then bid 2N, an artificial 'second negative' bid showing 0-3 points. West bid 3♣, which was not forcing after two negatives, but East now liked his shape enough to bid 5♣!

A winning diamond was led, and then a shift was made to a spade, going to declarer's Ace. West led the ♣A, then ruffed a diamond to get to dummy. The ♣J was now led. As South, you would not cover, would you? Declarer must have 4 of the suit, so the card your partner played on the first round of trumps must have been his only club, and it is therefore not possible to generate a trick for your side by covering. South worked this out, but crucially had not thought about the possibility beforehand, and the few seconds taken to work out that nothing could be gained by covering proved to be fatal. When the 8 was played after a delay, there could only be one reason for the relatively lengthy consideration, so declarer duly passed the J and then made the contract by dropping the Queen on the next trump round.

Declarer had no intention of running the J, as the percentage play with AKxx opposite JTxx is to play for the drop (the opponents had not bid), but in situations like this, it often helps to cross to dummy and lead the Jack to offer a little temptation!

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

Let's get together this Christmas!



Another difficult year that we've been through together, another memory that we shared in common. Let's get together this Christmas on Wednesday 8th December and /or Friday 10th December 2021! Each party will have two sessions of duplicate, you can choose to play in both sessions or in either the morning or the afternoon session for the same entry fee. That means you can choose to play the whole day with a lunch break or play one session with lunch either before or after your chosen session. Morning tea, afternoon tea and snacks will be served during the sessions.

- **Date:** Wednesday 8th December 2021 or Friday 10th December 2021 (you're welcome to join both)
- **Time:** 10.00am – 1.00pm and / or 2.15pm – 5.15pm with morning & afternoon tea and lunch
- **Venue:** City, level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Sydney 2010
- **Cost:** Members \$40 / Visitors \$45 per person (fee includes a delicious Christmas themed morning tea, afternoon tea, snacks and a 3-courses lunch. Vegetarian options available. No concession, no vouchers).

There will be separate sections for Open and Supervised players.

RED masterpoints.

We can only accept bookings for 80 people at each party. You [MUST book online](#) for catering and board dealing purpose.

For Face-to-Face sessions:

Welcome back! Our clubroom on Goulburn Street has opened from Monday 18th October 2021. We will start with 6 regular sessions on the first week: Monday – Thursday morning, 10am – 1.15pm and Tuesday night

7.15pm – 10.00pm. There will be a separate field for Supervised players on Wednesday morning and a “Play it out loud” Supervised session on Wednesday night (6.30pm start).

For BBO sessions:

We will continue to run the 5 regular club session online on BBO. Please check our [session timetable](#) here.

All are welcome. No need to book. Please find us on BBO / Featured Areas / Virtual Clubs / ABF-Australia. Tournament title “Sydney Bridge Centre & Friends”. Tournament will open only 2 hours before the game starts.

24 boards, BB\$4 per person per game.