



Tuesday Night Tips

The Sydney Bridge Centre mini lesson

The Tuesday night BBO has discontinued from 1st December 2021. Please join Martin Clear on Tuesday night for a Face-to-face game at Sydney Bridge Centre, 7.15pm start.

Martin Clear continues to host and lead the group for bridge discussion after the session. He will also pick an interesting hand from the face-to-face session for the Tuesday Tips column.

Where are our Tricks?

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 7th December 2021

| | | |
|----------|---------|----------|
| 7 | ♠ QT642 | Dir: S |
| | ♥ AQ72 | Vul: All |
| | ♦ KQ | |
| | ♣ AQ | |
| ♠ K8 | ♠ A9753 | 19 |
| ♥ KJT84 | ♥ 93 | 9 4 |
| ♦ JT | ♦ 9532 | 8 |
| ♣ JT53 | ♣ 76 | |
| | ♠ J | |
| | ♥ 65 | |
| | ♦ A8764 | |
| | ♣ K9842 | |

When you are defending a bridge hand, you need to identify where your tricks are coming from. In a trump contract, you can look at dummy and often see limits on the number of tricks available in each suit. You might need to remove dummy's trumps in order to gain more tricks in side suits than are available when dummy can ruff. But in no-trump contracts, identifying where your tricks are coming from is even more crucial, especially when your opening shot has apparently failed.

It's even more important to ask yourself that question ("Where are our tricks?") before making the opening lead as well. At our table on Board 7 on Tuesday night 7-December in face-to-face play at the Sydney Bridge Centre,

the bidding had started with a pass by your RHO, and you passed with ♠K8 ♥KJT84 ♦JT ♣JT53. Your LHO opened 1♠, your partner passes, your RHO bids 1N, and you decide not to bid at the 2-level. Your LHO then bids 3♥, and your partner passes and RHO bids 3N, ending the auction.

Here is the full auction:

| RHO | You | LHO | Ptnr |
|-----|-----|-----|------|
| P | P | 1♠ | P |
| 1N | P | 3♥ | P |
| 3N | P | P | P |

So the opponents have bid to 3N, bidding spades and hearts. So what do we lead? A club or a diamond, right? After all, we don't want to lead the opponents' suits!

But which suits ARE the opponents' suits? Consider this: the opener has shown 5 spades and 4 hearts, and a hand strong enough to play in game opposite a 6-9 strength. Responder has bid the no-trump game, declining to play in the majors where his partner has great length. This denies having three spades, and also denied having four hearts. However in practice, a responder with a 6-9 hand and 2-2 in the majors is likely to bid 3S on this sequence, as he can gain tricks compared to no-trump by ruffing some of declarer's 4 hearts. Similarly, if he has three hearts and only 1 spade, he will play in the spade game: it is more likely to provide tricks. With 2 spades and three hearts, he will also usually play in spades. In practice, that means that the only time responder will play in no-trump is when he has 1 or less spades, and 2 or less hearts. Declarer has shown 9 cards in the majors on this sequence, but effectively responder has shown ten in the minors! That means it is actually slightly better to look for tricks in the majors than in the minors.

Now I accept that there are some of you out there pointing out that you don't do things like that. Perhaps you have checkback systems, or you bid NT even when you have a semi-fit in the majors and partner has 5-4 in the majors, but the general principle is still there: be aware of the shape-showing effect of bids NOT made.

Here West decided to lead ♣3. Dummy appeared as ♠QT642 ♥AQ72 ♦KQ ♣AQ ... a 19-count, but with a lot of points in the minors. Declarer wins the first trick with the ♣A, then runs ♦K. Once again, we ask: where are our tricks?

Declarer's failure to try the ♣Q leads to a fairly obvious conclusion that he has the ♣K himself. Your partner's failure to put ♦A on ♦K makes it likely that declarer has ♦A too. Does declarer have the spade Ace? No - the 1N bid limits declarer to 9 points, especially when he has a lot of minor cards and would have liked to show his suits if he could. So there's part of your answer: you and your partner have 2 spade tricks at least.

Declarer continues with ♦Q, but puts ♦A on it. Clearly he has significant communication problems. He continues with ♦8 and you must make a discard. At the table a heart was discarded, but how high a heart can you spare?

I believe the best discard is ♣5. This appears to allow the declarer to run clubs, but declarer cannot possibly have an entry to run clubs except by overtaking ♣Q with ♣K, giving you a stopper still. By tossing a club away, you make it clear to your partner that you have given up on clubs as a source of tricks. He should also have worked out that declarer must have the ♣K, or ♣Q would have been played at trick 1.

Declarer has done well to generate 4 tricks in diamonds. If he had cashed ♦K and ♦Q, then crossed with ♣Q to ♣K to try ♦A, the diamonds would not have broken and he would have got only 3 diamonds and 2 clubs. He noted your ♦T on the first round and played the overtake to make sure of 4 diamond tricks whenever you had T9, JT, or JT9.

Now it is up to your partner, in with the ♦9 to find where our tricks must be - in hearts. Only if declarer's hearts are as good as JT can a heart lead be wrong. However, at the table a spade was played, and now declarer can set up a spade trick, 2 hearts, 4 diamonds and 2 clubs to make it home.

Did declarer get a good score from this? Not particularly as those in no-trump made 9 or 10 tricks as well! I suspect this might have been because defenders persisted in playing minors when declarer allowed the stiff minor honours in dummy to be knocked out. Effectively the defenders were playing into declarer's hands. Or at least the closed one!

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

Holiday Operating Time and Events



Our clubroom on Goulburn Street is still open for F2F sessions the next two weeks before the Holiday Break from Christmas Eve 24th December 2021 - 2nd January 2022.

There will be F2F sessions every morning from Monday - Thursday, an extra Supervised session on Wednesday morning, night game on Tuesday (Open 7.15pm) and Wednesday (Supervised 6.30pm). BBO will continue to run through the holiday seasons on Monday morning (10.15am), Thursday and Saturday ARVO (1.45pm), including Xmas Day and New Year's Day.

Our F2F sessions on Goulburn Street will restart on Monday 3rd January 2022, [session timetable](#) remains the same. We will kickstart F2F sessions at Canada Bay on Monday 10th January 2022, with sessions on Monday morning and Thursday morning (10am start).

A lot of RED points sessions are scheduled during the Holiday Seasons! Please check out the **RED POINTS FRENZY** events to grab some RED masterpoints before the end of the year:

For Face-to-Face sessions:

- **RED** F2F Open on Monday 20th December 2021, 10am start
- **RED** F2F Open on Tuesday 21st December 2021, 10am start
- **RED** F2F Open on Wednesday 22nd December 2021, 10am start (There will be a separated field for Supervised players, Green masterpoints)
- **RED** F2F Open on Thursday 23rd December 2021, 10am start

Normal table money fee.

For BBO sessions:

- **RED** BBO Christmas Day on Saturday 25th December 2021, 1.45pm start
- **RED** BBO on Monday 27th December 2021, 10.15am start
- **RED** BBO on Thursday 30th December 2021, 1.45pm start
- **RED** BBO New Year's Day on Saturday 1st January, 1.45pm start

BB\$4 for 24 boards.