



Tuesday Night Tips

The Sydney Bridge Centre mini lesson

The Tuesday Night at City has developed its own vibe – a group of bridge enthusiasts playing a friendly competitive game with Phil Halloran and Martin Clear as the hosts. Phil organises the session to make sure there is no sit-out, and Martin continues to lead the group for bridge discussion after the session. He will pick an interesting hand from the face-to-face session for the Tuesday Tips column.

How are you getting rid of your losers?

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 22nd March 2022

12	♠ KQ	Dir: W
	♥ QJ72	Vul: N-S
	♦ 75	
	♣ J9876	
♠ AT975	♠ 864	9
♥ K65	♥ 98	16 10
♦ 62	♦ AKQJ3	5
♣ AKQ	♣ T52	
	♠ J32	
	♥ AT43	
	♦ T984	
	♣ 43	
		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT
		N - - 1 - -
		S - - 1 - -
		E 2 4 - 4 4
		W 2 4 - 4 4

All too often, declarers concentrate on how many quick off-the-top losers they have and don't look at how they are getting the number of tricks they need to make their contract. It's all very well noting that you have short suits that allow you to ruff losers, but that means you have to actually get those ruffs done - it's no use drawing trumps and then realising you have three losers in a suit and only one trump left in dummy to ruff them with.

An alternative to ruffing losers is throwing them away on winners in the dummy. In general, if you have a hand that offers the opportunity to do either of these things, setting up the long suit in dummy is usually the better option. The defenders often find it harder to prevent you doing this, and it's

safer to draw trumps so there aren't any little ... accidents. It's important however to make sure you have an entry to the winning cards you plan to discard losers on. It's no use drawing trumps because you can get all your losers away on a suit like KQJT9 opposite your own three rags, because good defenders will only take their Ace on the third round of the suit, leaving the two winning cards to be wasted in the unreachable dummy.

Even when you have a nicely bullet-proof suit like AKQJx opposite two rags, the defenders may try to deny it to you. This came up on Board 12 of the 22-March Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre. The hand looks quite simple in the normal 4♠-by-West contract: you are going to lose two trump tricks and the A♥, which is hopefully on-side. If the A♥ is not on-side, the only way to make the contract is prevent your right-hand opponent getting in to lead a heart through.

On this hand you have the two alternatives mentioned earlier. You could cross to ♦A, finesse ♥K and then later ruff a heart, or you could plan to throw hearts on the diamond winners in dummy. Given the solid diamond suit, the latter is the best alternative. Most declarers received a club lead. Declarer should win, and concede a trump. As the cards lie this is won by North, and if you get a club return, you have excellent chances. You can win, play the ♠A, and then start on diamonds. If the defender with the remaining trump winner has three diamonds or more (or fails to ruff the third diamond), you can discard two hearts, making the contract. If the ♥A is on-side, you will make the contract. And if the defender with the remaining trump winner is North, you will make the contract. Because by only drawing two rounds of trumps, when the defender ruffs in, you can reach the remaining diamond winners by leading the ♠5 to the ♠8. In fact you would make 11 if North ruffs and does not switch to a heart to get the Ace.

As the cards lie, South has the final trump winner, but he is frustrated by having to follow to four rounds of diamonds, and can only ruff in as the fifth diamond is played. This enables you to throw away the entire heart suit, making 11 tricks and losing only the two trumps tricks that had to be lost.

It is important to note that there is no point in hanging on to the ♥K and another as a 'stopper' because it is just a 50% chance to lose another trick. You have all the winners you want, so just throw the potential losers away.

One declarer got a club lead, conceded a trump at trick 2, and received a diamond return. Not recognising the danger, declarer conceded another trump, planning to draw the last trump with the ♠A on the third round of trumps, and then enjoy the diamonds safely. But the defenders were able to play another diamond, and now declarer, finally understanding that there was no further entry to the diamonds, and worried that another diamond might be ruffed, attempted to finesse ♥K. This finesse worked, but it was a case of "the operation was successful but the patient died." South rose with AH, and exited with ♠J, preventing any access to the dummy. Declarer went one off, having to lose a late trick to the third heart, while the trio of diamond winners in dummy was left to "waste its sweetness on the desert air".

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

F2F Easter Monday Matchpointed Pairs Congress



Let's have some real cards in hand and play in a F2F congress with real people!

The Sydney Bridge Centre is running a F2F Matchpointed Swiss Pairs Congress on Easter Monday 18th April at Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Sydney. It is a one-day congress with 24 boards in the morning, lunch break, then another 24 boards in the afternoon. A delicious light lunch is included.

An invaluable and meaningful prize for Overall Novice & Restricted winners and the Best Novice (or Restricted) Pairs will receive a meaningful prize – Over the Shoulder Mentoring by an advanced player in one complimentary SBC session (either online on BBO or F2F in club). To support our fellow clubs, the Open Winners will receive a Complimentary Entry to any one-day local congress in New South Wales in 2022.

RED masterpoints awarded. \$50 per person (a delicious lunch and snacks included)

[Enter in advance](#) required on the NSWBA website. We intend to run separate fields for Open and Restricted & Novice players, if number allows. Please nominate the field you would like to compete in.

F2F Night Game in the City

Yes most of our regular sessions are run during the day, however, the night game culture is not lost! The SBC evening games are run by our volunteers who contribute their time for the love of the game.

The **Tuesday PM (Tuesday Evening hosted by Phil and Martin)** has created its own special vibe which attracts a steady growth in table number. The session starts at 7.15pm, 24 boards will be played. Martin Clear will be your host of the session with Phil Halloran and the après in which drinks & snacks will be served. We are trying to avoid sit-out for a proper competitive night, so please [contact office](#) if you would like to join the group on the first time. Promotional table money fee at \$6 per person! Limited time only.

For players who have just started their bridge journey and are looking for a more social game night, please join our **Wednesday night Supervised session** instead. The session starts at 6.30pm, with a 20 – 30 minutes pre-game talk by Jake Andrew (on the current Supervised Play) and Wing Roberts (on the upcoming Beginners Supervised Play). The session is run on duplicate movement, so players can get to meet other people. We aim to finish at around 9pm, so only 12-16 boards will be played. Table money fee \$12 for member and \$15 for visitors. No need to book, walk-ins are welcome.

There are more sessions during the day, both F2F and online, please refer to our [session timetable](#) on our website.