



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.

The Safety Hook

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 8th March 2022

5		♠ A76	Dir: N
		♥ 98	Vul: N-S
		♦ K63	
		♣ A9873	
♠	AQT54	♠ KJ853	11
♥	AQ8	♥ K2	18 7
♦	AQ8	♦ 542	4
♣	KQJ62	♣ T54	
		♠ QT942	
		♥ J763	
		♦ JT97	
		♣	
		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT	
		N - - - 1 -	
		S - - - 1 -	
		E 3 1 4 - 3	
		W 4 1 3 - 3	

Bridge sometimes requires a lot of knowledge of percentages - or at least enough experience to take a shrewd hunch. Sometimes however people don't seem to realise that the percentages are 'a priori' ie. they come from theory, and that observation of further evidence can change the percentages considerably. A good example was seen on Board 5 at the 8-March Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre.

West opened 1♥ and a number of North players felt that overcalling 2♣ was a good idea. I like my overcalls to have some significant honour holding in the suit, although I am aware that most top bidders these days tend to come in on any old five-carder. This suit holding of course is a fine example

for those who agree with me: bidding at the 2-level, vulnerable against not, in a suit that the opponents can make 10 tricks in, is not a great way to keep partner happy. On this hand, South is probably able to dredge up a 2♠ bid which saves North's bacon, but if East were to make any sort of nebulous double to ask partner to bid again, there are some South's who would pass, and when West passes to convert the double to penalty, most Norths would just shrug and pass to see how they go. And the answer is that they go 5-light for 1400 away, when even making 600 for game is not too easy for East-West.

At our table, over 2♣, East did double but West ran to 3N. North leads a club, which as you may notice is not the most effective defensive. In fact, when the ♣9 lead runs around to the ♣K, West leads a club back! West at my table decided to lead back a high club, which forced the ♣A out, and at Trick 4, North, deciding it was too late to start looking for tricks in other suits, and hoping to avoid helping declarer to overtricks by attacking a new suit, continued with another club, still maintaining a stopper. Declarer played ♥K and then fell from grace by leading a heart to the ♥A.

What are the percentage for the heart play? The suit will break 3-3 36% of the time, and you also bring home all the tricks when the ♥J is doubleton, a further 16%. This 52% total is better than finessing the ♥10 on the second round, which wins on half the 3-3 breaks (when South has the ♥J, 18%) and on the 4-2 breaks when South has the Jack (doubleton or quadruplet, 24%), making 42%.

However the percentages given (6 opponents card breaking 3-3 is 36%, 4-2 or 2-4 is 48%) are the chances of a suit break in the absence of further evidence. But in most cases there is already some evidence in play.

There is significant evidence already found on this hand. Of the 5 clubs possessed by the defenders, North had five and South had zero. This leaves all 13 of South's cards potentially being the 6 missing hearts, but only 8 of North's cards potentially being the 6 missing hearts. This swings the correct play in favour of finessing the ♥10 on the second round of the suit.

However there is an additional reason the finesse the ♥10. It makes sure that the person on lead when a heart is lost, is NORTH. The weakest suit holding declarer possesses is in diamonds, where losing a heart trick to South will see a diamond go straight through declarer's AQ holding. Losing the TH to North however is not calamitous, as the diamond Ace Queen combination are still waiting for a lead from that side.

The finesse (sometimes called a 'hook') of the Ten in hearts, is superior because the holder of a club void is more likely to hold heart length than having hearts 3-3. But finessing the ♥10 also has an additional purpose: it loses the lead only to the defender who can not attack declarer's weakness. This safety hook brings home the bacon on this occasion.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

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.