



## 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.

### Forcing Declarer

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022

<b>9</b>		♠ 973	Dir: N
		♥ Q92	Vul: E-W
		♦ QT74	
		♣ 763	
♠ Q864	♠ 5		4
♥ AKT74	♥ J865		10 5
♦ J5	♦ A9832		21
♣ T5	♣ 942		
		♠ AKJT2	
		♥ 3	
		♦ K6	
		♣ AKQJ8	

There's a useful saying in bridge: "have length, lead length". It means that when you have length in trumps, you should not necessarily lead a short suit to try for ruffs, but instead you should try to force declarer to ruff until you have more trumps than he does.

The issue came up on Board 9 of the 19-April Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre. The entire field were in the same contract: 4♠ (one managed by some artificial sequence to have it played by North, the rest were by South). No doubt some variations existed in the bidding, with South having a hand almost suitable for game opposite nothing, and North considering he had very close to nothing. West has

a heart suit and East has a heart raise, but with the vulnerability against them, no East-West pair made the fatal error of competing to the 5♥ level which should be 3 off.

The opening lead was the same at each table as well. Everyone led the ♥A, with the pair where declarer was North leading ♥5 across to the heart honour. How should West continue? The ♥K looks a dangerous continuation if partner has revealed (in bidding or count signal) that he has 4 hearts. Setting up dummy's ♥Q does not help. So, a shift is called for. And you need to find partner's entry immediately. If declarer has shown a club suit in the bidding, the diamond shift is clearly called for.

The only successful lead is a diamond, and East must win the Ace immediately. He must then send back a heart. This is an example of a suit that is good for the defenders but only if led from a specific side. Declarer cannot duck this heart, because the defenders would then have three tricks with a trump trick to come. But if declarer ruffs the trick, when he later loses the third round of trumps to West, the KH comes through and if declarer ruffs this, it is with his only remaining trump, and West still has the 8. Declarer could choose to lose an earlier trump trick, but the heart coming back still leaves him with both dummy and the closed hand having less trumps than West, and West is able to ruff both minor suits before anyone else.

Notice that only this sequence of plays in the first three tricks defeats the contract. A heart, then a cross to ♦A, to get another heart led from the safe side. Leading a heart from West allows South to either win with the ♥Q (if the heart lead is low), preserving a spade, or ruff the ♥K if it is led, and now any further heart continuation can be won by ♥Q in dummy, so declarer is not shortened in trumps.

Three declarers made the 4♠ contract, two did not. When defending, it is always important to look for situations where a lead of a suit benefits the defenders, but it can only be led from one side. If you are the sort of defender who recognises those opportunities, you will find yourself highly valued as a partner.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

## Play in the Same League – A special event for Novice players ONLY



The Sydney Bridge Centre is running a **F2F Australia Wide Novice Pairs Event** on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May at Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Sydney. A no-fear morning session from 10am – about 1.15pm. **ONLY players with less than 100 masterpoints** will be accepted in this competition. Refreshment included.

Your results will be compared to other participating players who are of similar level in the whole country – a much better indicator to see where you are in the bridge journey! ALL participants will be given a booklet of hand analysis after the session. An invaluable and meaningful prize for the winners – **a Complimentary SBC Workshop by Will Jenner-O'Shea** of your choice.

Please find the details on the [program brochure](#) and [enter online](#).

*Players with more than 100 masterpoints are welcome to join our normal Open duplicate on the side*

## 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.