



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.

Weaving a Tangled Web

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 12th April 2022

12	♠ AK2	Dir: W
	♥ KT6532	Vul: N-S
	♦ 54	
	♣ T9	
♠ QJ	♠ 9876	10
♥ A74	♥ QJ98	15 9
♦ JT963	♦ A87	6
♣ AK8	♣ Q3	
	♠ T543	
	♥	
	♦ KQ2	
	♣ J76542	

"Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive!" wrote Sir Walter Scott in the poem Marmion in 1808, and sometimes it is very important to start weaving very early in a bridge hand where you need the defenders to make the wrong choice. Board 12 of the 12-April Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre saw most of the field playing a very difficult 3N contract. West opens 1N with a minimum 15-count and when North came up with a 2♥ bid, East tended to bid 3N with a 9-count and solid stoppers in hearts. If North passed, East went through a Stayman enquiry but finding no joy in the majors went to 3N anyway.

A heart lead was the obvious choice, won in the dummy, and with South unable to follow suit, the arrangement of the heart suit was known to declarer and North. And now declarer should assess his assets to try to find a way to 9 tricks. He has 2 heart winners and 3 club winners, and the remainder are going to have to come from the diamond suit. The ideal way to play this diamond holding is to finesse twice through North, but as you don't have enough entries to the closed hand to finesse twice and then (after clearing the ♦A) still come back to hand, so you are going to have to play North for one or both diamond honours but also doubleton or less, so that you can re-enter the closed hand when an honour drops under the ♦A. If that's the case, you might as well not waste an entry to take the second finesse. The good news is that with 6 hearts to his partner's zero, North is highly likely to indeed be shorter in diamonds than his partner. The bad news is that his doubleton holding does not include either diamond honour.

So at most of the tables a diamond was lost, and then (or later after declarer lost the second diamond) South shifted to spades and the defenders cashed the Ace, King and Ten to put the contract off.

At one table however this did not happen. Because there was little the defenders could do to create tricks in hearts or clubs, the declarer made a play to talk the opponents out of finding the spades. At trick 2, a spade was led toward the Jack, losing to the King in the North hand. Now the defenders decided clubs might be declarer's weak point. Declarer won the ♣A, lost a diamond to South, and won ♣Q. The AD did not drop the other honour, so a diamond was conceded to South. South could still not bring himself to lead a spade from Txx around to 987 on the table after declarer had attacked this suit from the outset. Instead, he knocked out the ♣K ... and declarer cashed two more diamonds. North had to come down to three cards, and declarer knew how many hearts were left: if North had stripped the ♥K of support, declarer could cash ♥A and ♥Q; so North kept ♠K and Kx in hearts. The spade exit by declarer left North on lead with only hearts, and declarer took the last two tricks in hearts, and 9 tricks in total.

Playing the diamond suit directly left the defenders with the obvious option of trying to find tricks in spades. Playing the spade suit first allowed declarer to deceive the defenders into searching elsewhere for their tricks.

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 25th 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.