



## 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.

### Right-siding

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022

<b>4</b>	♠ AKT7	Dir: W
	♥ QT872	Vul: All
	♦ K8	
	♣ 76	
♠ J93	♠ 62	12
♥ J5	♥ 63	11 0
♦ QJ9	♦ T7532	17
♣ AQT92	♣ 8543	
	♠ Q854	♠ ♦ ♥ NT
	♥ AK94	N - - 5 5 2
	♦ A64	S 1 - 5 6 5
	♣ KJ	E - 1 - - -
		W - 1 - - -

In most bidding sequences, you don't get to choose who plays the contract. Most well-known bidding systems, Standard American or Acol-style 4-card major with weak No Trump, use a logical and easily remembered method of showing the suits you have and waiting for partner to agree to play there. This can make it a bit of a lottery as to which hand becomes declarer and which is dummy. In practice however there is often a distinct advantage in having one hand or the other play the contract ... and I am not referring to the fact that most of us think we play the cards just SLIGHTLY better than partner does!

The most common reason to try to make sure that one particular hand is the declarer is to have the hand with the tenaces playing last to the opening lead. A tenace is a combination of cards where a lead coming into it helps you make an extra trick. The most simple tenace is the Ace and Queen of a suit: if that holding is fourth to play to a lead in the suit, it is guaranteed to make both the honour cards. If however the lead comes from the holder's right or from the hand opposite, the holder will make both cards only when the opponent's King is on the right. The nature of the Ace and Queen acting as a pair of tongs to catch the King is where the word is derived from: Spanish 'tongs', or medieval Latin 'forceps'.

There are other tenaces. AJT makes two tricks if led up to, as does AJx 4th to play opposite Tx (or ATx 4th to play opposite Jx). There are lower tenaces as well, such as KTx 4th to play opposite Qx. A more threadbare holding is Ace and others in the second seat, and Queen and others in the fourth seat, but that guarantees two tricks as long as there are three cards in one of the hands and two in the other. And it is this tenace that I will use to illustrate an important principle in bidding: right-siding.

Most commonly in No Trump, you may get to a bidding position where you realise there is no suit you wish to play in but you have enough points to bid 3 No Trump. In a lot of cases, your side might have only bid 3 suits. A simple example: you have a 13-count with 4 hearts and 3 of each other suit. Partner opens 1♣, you bid 1♥ and partner re-bids 1♠. You clearly have no fit in a major, so you need to get to 3N. Should you bid it? It depends on what you hold in diamonds!

If your 13-count contains the Queen of diamonds, even if only doubleton, you would like to have that card played 4th in hand. This is because if partner has Ace and any two other diamonds, being declarer means you will have two stoppers in the obvious suit for the opponents to lead, whereas if partner plays the hand, a lead would go through your Queen and if the King is next to play, you only have one stopper. But that's fine, you were going to bid 3N anyway. However what should you do if your diamonds are Axx?

Now if partner has the Queen, it is better if partner plays the hand! You can't know if he does have the Queen, but it is best to have him bid NT first just in case. The way you do this is to bid the 4th suit. A 2♦ bid will leave partner nowhere to go except 2N, and you can then raise that to 3N, and the suit is doubly-protected.

There is one other type of tenace, one where you have a stopper only in 4th seat. The most common is Kx. If you hold Kx in a suit your partner may not have strength in, strive to make sure you play the hand. This is crucial in No Trump and still important in a suit contract.

On Board 4 of the 26-April Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre, there was an important example of this. North opened the bidding with 1♥, South replied 1♠, largely to mark time to find out how strong his partner was. After a 2♣ overcall by West, North bid spades. 2♠ is the correct bid; North is not quite strong enough to bid 3♠ despite the 45 shape. At our table though, 3♠ was bid and South went into Blackwood. Finding two keycards opposite, South bid the slam ... but in Hearts!

The partnership has 9 hearts and 8 spades, but that is far less important than the glaring problem in clubs. By going back to hearts, the contract was wrong-sided. A club was led, and the Ace and Queen sitting over the King-Jack took the first two tricks. A 6♠ contract would have prevented the clubs being attacked without giving a trick to the ♣K.

Oddly, there is another reason to play in spades. Contrary to expectations, when you have a 5-4 fit in a suit, and a 4-4 fit in another suit, it is often better to play in the 4-4. This is because you can draw trumps in 3 rounds and then use the 4th in each hand to score a ruff separately, while the 5-4 side suit allows you to obtain a discard from the shorter hand to make sure the 2 remaining trumps score separately. If you play in the 5-4, the 4-4 suit can never give you a discard. This happens on this hand: note that even if the defenders are not allowed to lead a club against 6♥, the contract cannot be made. You will get 5 trump tricks, 4 spade tricks, and 2 diamonds, with no chance to ruff with the 4 trumps in dummy, and no squeeze. In a 6♠ contract however, you draw trumps, run 5 hearts and throw away a club. Then you can concede a club and make twelve tricks: 3 initial rounds of trumps, 5 hearts, 2 diamonds, and two cross-ruffing trumps.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

## Join us for the Cancer Council Morning Tea Party

Raise your cup for a meaningful fun session in City AND Canada Bay on **Thursday 19th May 2022!**



There will be variety of teas and cakes in the City. You're also welcome to bring more to make this the BIGGEST Morning Tea by Sydney Bridge Centre! Outside food is not allowed in Canada Bay venue, a special souvenir will be given to the attendees there.

Same hands will be played in both venues, we will score across the two venues. The sessional winners of each venue will receive a Complimentary Entry to the NSWBA Teams of Three event on Sunday 5th June 2022.

Raffle tickets are available in both clubrooms. \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Attractive prizes include an opportunity to have a complimentary game in SBC with Warren Lazer as your partner! Warren is one of a few Emerald Grand Masters in the country and a gentle mentor. All raffle draw takings will be donated to Cancer Council.

Extra \$2 for table money, SBC will donate \$4 for each player. **RED Masterpoints** awarded. No need to book in advance, walk-ins are welcome.

## 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.