



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.

Squeeze an Extra Trick

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 10th May 2022

24	♠ QJ7	Dir: W
	♥ T8643	Vul: Nil
	♦ J4	
	♣ 643	
♠ T86	♠ AK	4
♥ A5	♥ KQ72	19 14
♦ AK5	♦ 9832	3
♣ AKJ92	♣ QT5	
	♠ 95432	
	♥ J9	
	♦ QT76	
	♣ 87	

One of the options available to a declarer which is viewed as being more difficult than most is the squeeze play. This view that squeezes are inherently difficult is unfortunate, because the vast majority of squeezes are simple squeezes which can be effectively executed by following a few simple principles.

The beauty of a squeeze is that it costs nothing to try. If you try a throw-in against an opponent, there's often a risk that when you give the opponents the lead they might get a trick you hadn't planned on. But when you set up a squeeze, you are simply going to cash all your winners all the way up to Trick 12 and then give up Trick 13 ... but if the squeeze

works, you get Trick 13 as well.

Here's a simple model of how a squeeze works. If your last three cards in a no-trump contract are the ♠A, the ♥K and ♦2, and dummy has ♠2, ♦A and ♦J, you have two winners - the two Aces. But if either defender has the ♥A, the ♦K and the ♦Q, when you play the ♠A, that defender will either have to throw away the ♥A, in which case you can cash the ♥K and then win the ♦A; or will have to throw away one of the diamond honours, in which case you play the ♦2 to ♦A to drop the other honour and win the ♦J. There is nothing the defender can do, because it is not possible to defend both threats.

So how do you get to that final position? There are some general principles to observe.

1. Rectify the count. Most squeezes will only generate 1 extra trick, and nearly always it is best to . Therefore you sometimes need to concede a trick or two. If you have 9 winners and the opponents have already taken 2 tricks, you should concede one trick to the opponents. This means they have 3 and you have 9 - one short of the 13 tricks available, which means the count is rectified.
2. You need to have one extended menace. An extended menace is a losing card attached to a winner. The simplest is Ax, opposite a singleton. Other examples are Kx opposite Axx, or Kxx opposite AQxx. An extended menace can also have extra extension, such as Kx opposite AQxx.
3. It is best to only have one extended menace. Once you have identified the suit you intend to use as the extended menace, and the count is rectified, cash winners in any other extended menace to make it a simple menace. For instance, if you have Kx opposite Axx, cash the two honours.
4. Clear stiff winners that mask threat cards. An obvious one is a singleton Ace opposite Qx. This is called a Vienna coup.

5. Now we execute the squeeze. Cash stiff winners in suits that have no threat cards (eg. Ax opposite Kx), then in suits that have threats, and only then look at extended menaces.

A lot of squeeze opportunities are lost because declarers feel they need to hang on to a trump or two to regain the lead after losing it, but with the count rectified, there is no value in doing this: you do not need to regain the lead when you are only losing the lead at trick 13 anyway.

Let's have a look at a full example. This hand occurred as Board 24 of the 10-May Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre. With 33 points including all Aces and all Kings, the two hands were generally bid to 6N, usually by West. And with 2 spades, 3 hearts, 2 diamonds and 5 clubs, 12 tricks are there for the taking. Take them in the right order however. The 5 clubs (throwing two diamonds from East); the AK of spades (Vienna coup!), then the AK of diamonds. On the second diamond winner, with four cards left, West has TS, Ax in hearts, and ♦5, and East has KQxx in hearts. But what does North hold? If he does not have a spade holder than the TS, declarer can cash the TS then the three heart winners. If North holds onto a master spade, he must part with a heart, and now declarer can cash all four hearts.

I have mentioned squeezes a few times in these reviews, but it's because I think it's a technique many players would benefit from learning. Squeeze opportunities occur more than once per night, so there's a great deal of value in knowing how to execute them. This hand on Tuesday night saw one declarer execute the squeeze flawlessly for 13 tricks instead of 12 ... and a score of 100%.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

A fun way to learn from the experts – F2F NSWBA Teams of Three



The Teams of Three is one of the most popular events organised by NSWBA! You form a team of 3 players and we invite advanced players to be your Captain. Your Captain will play 2 matches with each player. It's a fun way to learn about team matches in bridge, it's also a great opportunity to learn from your Captain partner.

This one-day congress will be held on **Sunday 5th June 2022** at the NSWBA clubrooms on Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Sydney, 10am start (please arrive at 9.40am to draw team captains).

Attractive prizes. \$50 per player (lunch included). **RED** masterpoints.

Please find the [details](#) and enter via MyABF.

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.