



## 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.

### The Three Meanings of Blackwood 5NT

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022

<b>16</b>	♠ 932	Dlr: W
	♥ K9872	Vul: E-W
	♦ 2	
	♣ T872	
♠ 7654	♠ AKQJT	3
♥ 6	♥ AT	13 21
♦ AKJ4	♦ Q987	3
♣ KQ93	♣ AJ	
	♠ 8	
	♥ QJ543	
	♦ T653	
	♣ 654	

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	1	-	-
S	-	-	1	-	-
E	6	7	-	7	7
W	6	7	-	7	7

Everyone loves Blackwood. It's one of the most important bidding conventions there is, a simple check on good hands before a slam is bid to make sure that you aren't missing two quick tricks that the opposition can take immediately. Most bridge players have some form of Blackwood in their convention kitbag, whether it is the traditional 'vanilla' one that just asks for Aces, or a keycard system that includes the King of the intended trump suit as well.

However many players are a lot more vague about the bidding after the response to Blackwood has been given. I will deal with a fairly common 1430 Roman Keycard Blackwood (RKCB) system in this discussion, but

the principles apply on similar lines for other systems.

RKCB 1430 is a 4N bid that asks responder about the 5 Keycards: the four Aces and the trump King, as well as some information about the trump Queen. The responses are:

- 5♣: 1 or 4 Keycards
- 5♦: 3 or 0 Keycards
- 5♥: 2 Keycards, without the trump Queen
- 5♠: 2 Keycards, with the trump Queen

The "1/4, 3/0" responses of 5♣ and 5♦ give the 1430 variant its name, as well as the fact that 1430 is what you score for a major suit vulnerable slam! You can always find out with this system about the trump Queen as well, because the two higher responses show the possession or lack of possession of the Queen, and the two lower responses leave room to ask about the Queen. The way to ask for the Queen after 5♣ or 5♦ is to bid the lowest available bid. The responder then bids the next lowest bid to deny the Queen, and the bid one higher than that to show the Queen.

What comes next? The 5 keycards have been located, the Queen of trumps has been located. The next bid is of course 5NT.

And now I will ask the question: what is the meaning of 5NT in this sequence? And the overwhelming reply will be heard: "It is asking for Kings." And that is true: it DOES ask for Kings. But that is only one of the three meanings of 5NT, and sometimes people forget the other two meanings.

The second meaning of 5NT is that it shows at least some interest in a grand slam. There is no real value in making an enquiry where the response will be at the 6-level if you are not looking to bid 7, because you are going to have to bid 6 after any reply. If 6 is the limit of your ambitions, you should just bid the small slam rather than allow the

opponents to hear how many Kings someone has. And that leads to the third meaning of 5NT: it shows that ALL the keycards are held, including the trump Queen.

There is of course never any point in asking about Kings if a keycard is missing, because the missing keycard means you cannot go higher than a small slam, and asking for Kings would commit you to a small slam anyway, so you should just bid it. Of course you do not need all the Keycards to bid the small slam, and in fact many small slams lack one keycard.

So why is it important to know that 5NT also means that all the Keycards are held? Because that knowledge, plus the knowledge that the 5NT bidder is at least a little bid interested in a grand slam also gives knowledge to the responder.

This came up on Board 16 of the 17-May Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre. West opened 1♦, East responded 1♠, and West gave full value to the singleton to bid 3♠. East now rolled out 4NT as RKCB 1430, and West responded 5♣, showing 1 or 4 Keycards. East now knew that all the Keycards were held, including the Queen of trumps and made the crucial bid of 5N.

So does West respond with 6♥ to show 2 of the side suit Kings? No! Think about how good the West hand is: not only does it have the 2 Kings, but it also has the power to ruff the second and subsequent heart rounds, plus the extra trick of the club Queen, and even some extra scope in diamonds. The hand could not be better for a partner with even a tiny hope for a grand slam. West did not tell of Kings, but bid a direct 7♠. East had every important card and the grand slam was easily made. 7N would also make, but it is not guaranteed on the bidding, and given that so few bidders arrive at any grand slam, there is little point in trying for the extra 10 in no-trump. 7♠ was worth all the matchpoints.

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.