



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.

Keeping Entries for Communication

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 7th June 2022

15		♠ Q42	Dir: S
		♥ AKQJ9	Vul: N-S
		♦ 74	
		♣ 962	
♠ 853	♠ T	12	
♥ T7	♥ 86432	5	9
♦ QJ985	♦ A62	14	
♣ Q54	♣ AJ87		
		♠ AKJ976	
		♥ 5	
		♦ KT3	
		♣ KT3	
		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT	
		N 1 - 5 5 5	
		S 1 - 5 5 5	
		E - 1 - - -	
		W - 1 - - -	

Communication between the declarer's closed hand and the dummy is crucial. It's always important to look at the assets you have in both hands and work out how you are going to get from one hand to the other to make sure you make the most of those assets. Cashing out winners is one reason to be able to get to a particular hand but there are other plays that have to be done in one direction only. Sometimes you may need to be in one hand or the other in order to take a finesse, which can only be taken in a particular direction, Ruffing is also a process that has to be done from one hand to another.

Sometimes declarers get too caught up in one of these directional situations in order to save a potential trick and fail to notice that doing so may cost them more tricks later. When you have a series of winners to cash in dummy, for instance, it might be a good idea to decline a finesse if not losing the lead gives you extras options later. If your trump suit for instance is AJxxx in hand and K9x in dummy, but you have a bunch of unreachable winners in dummy (AKQJT opposite a void, a side suit that happened on the previous board to the board described here on the night in question), it is often best to play Ace then King, and then start on the cashing suit. As long as the trumps are 3-2, you can cash out the suit, and when the defender ruffs in you can reach the rest of the long suit by leading to the trump 9. If instead you play the normal percentage play for the trump suit - King, then finesse the Jack - the Queen may win and the Ten may be led back, leaving you with zero tricks from the side suit. The gain from the finesse working is not worth the potential loss of the side suit.

Often your trump side has a number of potential entries - after all, it's the suit you are likely to have a dominant holding in - and it's important to use those entries wisely. Because drawing the defenders' trumps is also important, declarers sometimes concentrate too hard on that ("draw trumps then think") to the detriment of the play.

Even when your trumps are so good they can easily remove the defenders' trumps, I see declarers fail to make the most of the entry position. Consider a trump suit of AJ863 in hand and KQ42 in dummy. You draw trumps in two rounds as the defenders fortunately have two each. Great - but which cards did you play? So many declarers lead the 3 to the King, then the 2 to the Ace. This leaves them with Q4 in dummy and J86 in hand ... and if they later need to get to dummy twice, it won't be happening.

Now, if you're a good enough player to map out the entire play of 13 tricks before you draw your first trump, good for you: you can plan which high cards you'll need to have left and draw with the others accordingly. For everyone else, I recommend what I call 'interlacing'. This means trying to keep your remaining trumps so that they effectively alternate between the two hands. On the example above, lead the 6 to the King, then play the 2 to the Jack. This leaves Q4 in dummy, and A83 in hand. Because these remaining cards go from highest to lowest declarer-dummy-declarer-dummy-declarer, that means you retain complete flexibility in using the suit for access.

You can reach dummy twice by playing 8 to Q, then 3 to 4; or you can get access to hand twice by playing Q to A, then 4 to 8.

However the one most crucial thing about drawing trumps when there's a cashing side suit in dummy is making sure you finish in the right hand. On Board 15 of the 07-June Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre, the hand above was dealt, and all players played ♠4 from South. Most declarers received a diamond lead. One smart defender won the diamond Ace, took a look at dummy's hearts, and promptly cashed the ♣A to hold declarer to 11. Other's optimistically continued with a diamond and declarer made 12 comfortably. At one table however, the lead was the Ten of Hearts. Declarer won in dummy, and led the trump Queen ... and lived to regret it. Drawing two more trumps left him in his own hand where he had to lead away from his minor suit Kings, and he ended with 9 tricks.

Declarers often cash a suit for 'neatness' - take the Queen then have all the other winners in hand. But here it is crucial that the Queen wins the trump trick that draws the final trump, which is likely to be the third one. ♠A, then ♠K, then ♠Q, then all the hearts, allows declarer to throw away one entire minor suit, and lead toward a King in the other. With both Aces onside, he can't get the guess wrong, and makes 12 tricks. Note that this trump play is correct even if the trumps are 2-2.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

Sunday Funday – FREE game for everyone on 17th July 2022



Our organiser was under the weather, with regrets we have to cancel the long-awaited Christmas in July Congress on 16th – 17th July 2022.

No need to get disappointed, as we're bring back the once-a-month Sunday Afternoon game on the 17th July, 1.30pm – 4.30pm. An early Christmas – **FREE** first session (\$20 worth) for EVERYONE! If you have joined our Sunday Afternoon session before, you would recall the snacks and munchies through the session, and the post-mortem over a glass afterwards. If you have never played on Sunday, time to give it a go!

You don't need a partner, visitors and walk-ins are welcome.

Share your love of the game with a friend – Beginners and Improvers Courses

Emma Barnes is one of the best Beginners teachers in the country! She is patient, humorous and makes bridge easy to learn! Our next Beginners Courses will be held on:

- **6 Wednesday mornings** from 20th July – 24th August at City, 10.00am – 12.15pm
- **6 Wednesday evenings** from 20th July – 24th August at City, 6.30pm – 9.30pm

If you are beyond Beginners level, consider the Improvers Course:

- **6 Thursday mornings** from 21st July – 25th August at Canada Bay, 10.00am – 12.15pm

Please find the [details](#) and [enrol](#) via the Sydney Bridge Centre website.

F2F Friday Workshop is back!

We are as pleased as you are that Will is running his Workshops again. The Friday Workshops are filling up! Please book in early to avoid disappointment. The next two workshops will be held in the City on:

- **Friday 29th July:** Defence
- **More under schedule:** please keep an eye on the Sydney Bridge Centre website.

\$50 for member (both Sydney Bridge Centre and Strathfield Bridge Club members can enjoy the special rate) / \$55 for visitors. Please find the [details](#) on our website. [Booking](#) essential for catering purpose.

Regular F2F and Online sessions at 3 venues

- F2F @ CITY -

- Monday morning 10.00am – 1.15pm, Open Inclusive
- Tuesday morning 10.00am – 1.15pm, Two Tiers Open Inclusive
- Tuesday night 7.15pm – 10.00am, Open Inclusive (booking in advance required, please contact office)
- Wednesday morning, 2 separate sessions – Intermediate/Open (9.45am – 1.15pm with a 15mins pre-game talk) and Beginners Supervised (10.00am – 12.30pm)
- Wednesday night 6.30pm – 9.30pm, Beginners Supervised
- Thursday morning 10.00am – 1.15pm, Open Inclusive

- F2F @ CANADA BAY -

- Monday morning 10.00am for 10.15am start – 1.30pm, Open Inclusive
- Wednesday afternoon 1.30pm – 4.30pm, Intermediate Supervised (1-hour lesson plus 2-hours game)
- Thursday morning 10.00am for 10.15am start – 1.30pm, Open Inclusive

Please find the details of [the session timetables](#) and find out [more about our venues](#) on our website.

- ONLINE @ BBO -

If you prefer to play online, there are regular club sessions on Thursday afternoon (1.45pm) and Saturday afternoon (1.45pm) on BBO. To join our online game, please follow this [step by step guidelines](#). BB\$4 for 24 boards.