



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.

When NOT to Compete in the Bidding

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 21st June 2022

11	♠ T2	<i>Dir:</i> S	
	♥ J3	<i>Vul:</i> Nil	
	♦ QJ75		
	♣ T8653		
♠ Q643	♠ KJ9	4	
♥ K974	♥ QT5	6	17
♦ 942	♦ AT6	13	
♣ J9	♣ AK72		
♠ A875			
♥ A862			
♦ K83			
♣ Q4			
		</	

When the opponents open the bidding, what makes you want to come into the bidding? A fistful of points? Certainly that helps, but it's not the key concern. Bridge players sometimes overlook where the value of a hand comes from ... especially when the values are defensive.

Assume you are first to bid, and you have a balanced hand with 15-17 points. You are going to open, and 1N is the obvious opening bid in Standard American. Players look at the hand they've got and think they have announced a significant attacking hand. That's true ... but it's actually a better defensive hand.

A hand with a lot of high cards wins tricks when declaring the contract or when defending against it. But some hands have a far greater variance in trick-taking potential from being declarer to being a defender. What is most obvious about those hands? Length, not strength. If you have something like x-x-KQJxxx-KQJxx, if you defend a major suit contract, your hand might only provide a single trick. However, if you are the declarer, you are highly likely to take 9 tricks in whatever fit you and your partner can find.

Hands with strength but not length are described as no-trump hands, but more importantly they should be described as defensive hands. With good cards, but short suits, you take lots of tricks no matter what suit is trumps.

So when you hear the opponents bidding, you should try to come in to the bidding when you have length, more than strength. You have to enter the bidding with a strong balanced hand, but you should not be too keen to play the hand when your side does not have a fit: your tricks score in defence too.

On Board 11 of the 21-June Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre, East had a hand that looked very promising, but after South opens 1♦, West passes and North bids 2♦, it's questionable whether a balanced 17-count is worth mentioning at all. Partner could not find a simple 1-level overcall in a major, so there seems little chance of a suit in the West hand good enough to play opposite the major suit tripletons.

However East doubled, and after the pass by South, West offered 2H. North passed, and East gilded the lily further by raising to 3♥, despite only 3 trumps for a partner who you forced to bid, and who may be hating the entire process, especially given that you forced West to bid in the first place. 3H was passed out and West ended with 8 tricks after some less than perfect play and defence. But 2♦ would have been 2 off. The scoresheet was littered with 'red ink': contracts going off, nearly all by overbidding East/West pairs.

When you have a good suit and when you and your partner have a fit, you should compete as high as you dare. But when the opponents show a suit and you are competing in No Trump, there is little value in bidding higher.

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.