



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.

Half a Loaf

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 2nd August 2022

9		♠ A52	Dir: N
		♥ AQT76542	Vul: E-W
		♦ A8	
		♣	
♠ KQ8	♠ JT9743	14	
♥ J9	♥ K8	14	4
♦ Q64	♦ 75	8	
♣ KQJ87	♣ T95		
♠ 6			
♥ 3			
♦ KJT932			
♣ A6432			

	♠	♦	♥	NT
N	2	4	6	- 1
S	2	4	5	- 1
E	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-

So many declarers at club level seem obsessed with the finesse. I suppose that's understandable because it seems to be such a free shot to earn an extra trick: you have an Ace and a Queen, and you get to win both of them without the opponents' King scoring at all. It's magic!

However the finesse only works half the time. And as I've said before, top level players tend to picture the finesse as a 50% chance to LOSE a trick. They'll take the finesses that have to be taken, but they're constantly looking for ways to avoid the finesse, either by setting up a winner elsewhere that can be used to avoid the finesse entirely, or perhaps by trying to throw the opponents into the lead at a moment

where their only choice is to lead around to the finesse (or all alternatives are just as bad).

Declarers who are not at that level tend to see the finesse as a gainer not a loser. I have often seen a declarer have an opportunity to make a discard, and decline to discard from a finesse position. If you are in 6♠ with hands such as AJxxx-x-AJxxx-AQ opposite a dummy of KQxxx-AKx-xx-xxx, draw trumps, and then play the top two hearts to discard the ♣Q. So many players seem to want to discard a diamond instead. The same applies to the lower finesse position: making 11 tricks in a spade contract from AJxxx-x-AJxxx-Kx opposite a dummy of KQxxx-AKx-xx-xxx is easy if you discard the small club ... but some declarers seem to think the small card is needed to "make the King good"! They discard a diamond instead, giving themselves a 50% chance to drop an extra trick unnecessarily.

This particular blind spot came up in a different form on Board 9 of the 02-August Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre. Most declarers found their way to 4♥ by North, though most players in the West seat bid clubs at some level to attract a club lead. The declarers who received a club lead won the ♣A in dummy, discarding a spade, and then took the trump finesse. This lost, and so did declarer's chance of 12 tricks, as the other spade loser won't go away, and the threats are in the wrong position to set up any kind of squeeze.

The spade loser can be made to go away easily. Win the ♣A on the opening lead (discarding ♠2), play a spade to ♠A, then ruff ♠5 with the singleton H3 trump in dummy. This gives up on the trump finesse, but ruffing the spade loser gains one whole trick, which is better than the 50% chance of a trick the trump finesse offers. Half a loaf may be better than no bread, but a full loaf is better than a 50% chance of one. With the trump finesse not working, the simple ruff of a loser was the only way to make 12 tricks. 12 tricks come home on any lead, as East is unable to lead trumps without giving up the trump trick. Only one declarer made 12 tricks.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

Australia Wide Open Pairs on Monday 29th August 2022



Our players really enjoyed the Australia Wide Novice Pairs held earlier this year. Here comes the Open Pairs version! The **SBC Australia Wide Open Pairs** will be held on **Monday 29th August** at **both City and Canada Bay**. Double masterpoints – **GREEN** for sessional results and **RED** for the nation-wide ranking.

\$18 for members (\$15 for concession members) / \$22 for visitors. A souvenir booklet of hand commentaries included.

No need to book in. Walk-ins and visitors are welcome. If you are looking for a partner, please contact office for match making.

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 workshop will be held in the City on:

- **Friday 9th September:** No-Trumps Systems and Bidding
- **More are being scheduled:** 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.

Sunday Funday on 14th August 2022



Our first Sunday afternoon game went well with 10.5 tables! We hope you enjoyed the classic cucumber sandwiches, cheese platter and everything makes a Sunday great. As requested by players the club will now run two Sunday Fundays each month, whenever the venue on Goulburn Street is available. The next few Sunday Fundays will be held on:

- Sunday 14th August 2022, 1.30pm - 4.30pm
- More are being scheduled! Please keep an eye on the SBC website

You don't need a partner. No need to book in, visitors and walk-ins are welcome. \$18 member (\$15 concession member) / \$22 visitor. Refreshment throughout play and join us for a glass at the end of the session.

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.