



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.

Put yourself in the Defender's Shoes

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 6th September 2022

18	♠ 643	Dir: E	
	♥ J9732	Vul: N-S	
	♦ 432		
	♣ Q2		
♠ KJT	♠ AQ875	3	
♥ A85	♥ QT6	18	14
♦ AQ75	♦ K8	5	
♣ A53	♣ K74		
♠ 92			
♥ K4			
♦ JT96			
♣ JT986			

On Board 18 of the 06-September Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre, most of the field managed to bid a slam. All of the slams were the 6♠ slam rather than the better 6N, but it's hard to resist a 5-3 fit in a major suit, so it's understandable. However, making the slam proved quite difficult for most of the declarers, so I thought I'd take the time to analyse the thinking that declarer should do on this hand.

You win the opening lead, and draw trumps because there is nothing to ruff with dummy's flat shape. You have 11 winners: 5 spades, 1 heart, 3 diamonds, 2 clubs. Where is the 12th trick to come from? There are two possibilities: a lead toward heart honours in your own hand, and squeeze

chances. I love squeeze play and highly recommend it to anyone who enjoys the occasional exquisite beauty of a bridge hand, but I recognise that most people find the simple lead toward a high card to be the more comprehensible option, and on this hand, you can try that first anyway.

So how do we do this? There are two options of how to play the heart suit: play the Ace and then lead toward the honours, or lead toward the honours immediately; and then later there is the second pair of options as to whether to play the Queen or the Ten. Let's look at the first pair of options. The play of the Ace first has a small bonus of perhaps dropping a singleton King or Jack from the South hand, or exposing North's honour if he holds it doubleton. However, if the hearts are 4-3, playing the Ace first tends to put all your eggs in the 'guessing right' basket, because if you guess wrong, the opponents can lead another heart and put the slam off. If you take the lead toward the QTx of hearts immediately, and then guess incorrectly which heart to play, you can still win the Ace on the next round and try your chances with the squeeze.

Once you've decided whether to lead toward the low honours on the first or second round of hearts, you also need to decide which honour to play. You can play the Queen, hoping North has the King; or you can play the Ten, hoping North has the Jack, so that your Ten forces South's King. If North has both honours, you cannot get it wrong; and if North has neither honour, you cannot get it right, so you must assume the honours are one in each hand, and it is your duty to guess which has which.

This may seem a straight coin flip, but it isn't. Remember North cannot see that you have the Ten of hearts. He DOES know you have the Queen, because you would not lead toward your hand with anything less. He also does not know if you might make all the rest of the tricks if he lets you have the Queen of Hearts. So if North has the King, he might very well play it. And even if he does not, he might take so long to play that he makes it obvious that he DOES have the King.

Because look at the alternative view. If North holds the JACK of hearts, he has no reason to even think about playing it. The play of the Jack can only be suicidal.

So ... when you lead toward your Queen and Ten of hearts, try to put yourself in the mind of the North defender. If he plays the King, you are home. If he hesitates, you know to play the Queen. And if he does NOT hesitate, you should therefore play the TEN not the Queen ... because the fact that he did not play the King and did not even hesitate gives a very strong indication that he played quickly because he had nothing to think about ... he didn't HAVE the King.

In this case, you should therefore insert the Ten, which forces the King, and you are able to score up 12 tricks. And your slam. Only 1 of the 4 people in the slam made it. The declarer in 4♠ also only made 11. Interestingly the two people in 3N DID make 12. I suggest that is because they could not risk playing the ♥A before leading toward the heart honours, so even if they guessed wrong, they still had the squeeze chances. And in no-trump, there was no reason to stop them playing off all 5 spades. Those in a spade contract did what players who don't know squeeze theory often do: they hang on to a trump "just in case" they need to get control back after losing the lead. In practice, once you lose a heart trick, you have all the tricks except the last one, so you don't need to hang on to a trump to "regain the lead" for Trick 14! Failing to cash a trump means there is no pressure on the defenders, so all those spade contract declarers only got 11, while the 3N declarers made 12, because South has to guard both clubs and diamonds, and can't do it. In fact, South has WAY too much defending to do!

Remember when I mentioned earlier "the occasional exquisite beauty of a bridge hand"? Well, this is one of those beautiful hands. Would you believe that East-West can make SEVEN No-Trump? It's through a triple squeeze, with the re-squeeze being a criss-cross ... and yes, I understand those technical terms probably zipped straight past most people, but it is a joy. I have added the 7NT analysis to the SBC Facebook page for those interested - see link below. I also put it on the Bridgewinners website where world-class players hang out, and some readers there remarked on the beauty and rarity of the hand.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/769735880091833/posts/1676362082762537/>

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

Sunday Funday on 9th October 2022



Sleep in on a Sunday and enjoy a relaxed game in the afternoon! 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 one, and hopefully two Sunday Fundays each month, whenever the venue on Goulburn Street is available. The next few Sunday Fundays will be held on:

- Sunday 9th October 2022, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

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.

F2F Workshops for different levels of players!

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 7th October:** Playing Easy Hands. Playing Hard Hands.
- **Saturday 8th October (Half Day ADVANCED):** Slam Bidding and Advanced Plays.
- **Friday 18th November:** Improve Your Overcalls and Competitive Bidding

\$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, 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.