



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.

Wake Up!

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 16th August 2022

21	♠ AKQJ95	Dir: N
	♥ 73	Vul: N-S
	♦ JT743	
♠ T	♠ 632	11
♥ AKQJT2	♥ 954	16 9
♦ KJ532	♦ AQ84	4
♣ Q	♣ K82	
	♠ 874	♠ NT
	♥ 86	N 4 - - 4 -
	♦ T976	S 4 - - 4 -
	♣ A965	E - 5 3 - -
		W - 5 4 - -

High level bidding decisions on Board 21 of the 16-August Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre led to an interesting piece of lateral thinking being required by North. With big rock-solid major suits in play, and each side having TWO nine-card fits, the bidding got fast and loose. One table somehow did not get to game, two pairs were allowed to play in the unbeatable 4♥ by West, two pairs were allowed to play in the unbeatable 4♠ by North, and two were forced into the value bid of 5♥ by West, with one optimist North doubling the 5♥ contract.

North has to think about his plan to beat 5♥. There are not going to be many spade tricks, as West would have allowed for that. It looks like the best way to beat the contract is to get a diamond ruff, hoping that South has a quick entry in clubs.

All four of the heart contracts saw North lead the ♠A. The various Norths mostly continued with a club but it is very difficult to convey the right message to South with the club suit alone. Those who led ♣J (on the grounds that it denies the ♣Q and makes it clear to South that West has the ♣Q) found partner not being aware of the club length in the North hand and playing the 'typical' encouraging ♣6, hoping to get a second club lead through to obtain two club tricks. They're still waiting for that second club coming through, as declarer won the singleton Queen, drew trumps and claimed 12 tricks.

The trick 2 lead of ♣4 fares little better. It does not send the message to go up with ♣A and then lead a diamond into the nasty-looking AQ in dummy. For want of alternative, South probably plays the Ace (the 9 is not going to win, and partner's lead of ♣4 seems to show at least four, so there is no hope of getting two tricks in the suit), but a diamond shift? Unlikely. No-one found the right play to collect three tricks for the defence. In fact, half the declarers made 12, presumably by the defenders finding the club shift but not going up with the Ace.

Perhaps the best club lead by North is the 7, which promises nothing in the suit and pretty much forces South to take the Ace. But a diamond shift is still unlikely.

How can the defenders beat the contract? Well, most North players did the thinking of how they would need to defend just after they had led ♠A. I mean, surely everyone leads ♠A, right? Unfortunately that thinking is a trick too late.

Imagine you are South, and partner leads the JACK of spades. You sadly contribute a small card, and are rocked back in your seat when the ♠J actually wins the trick. Partner continues with a club, and you stop to think. There is no good reason for declarer to have ducked a spade winner of any size, so partner has clearly led the Jack from Ace-King-Queen-Jack. Why? Why such a completely non-standard lead?

This kind of non-standard lead is intended to do precisely what it has done: to make partner think. It is called an Alarm Clock Lead ... it is designed to wake partner up. It says "I am doing this to alert you to something I need you to do ... please don't just push out the cards you would normally push out; if I wanted that I would have led the ♠A as usual." One of the most common things an Alarm Clock asks for is a ruff, because that is something that has to be done by partner. Here South should win the ♣A, and with 8 diamonds visible, should work out the only possible reason North would have made an Alarm Clock Lead. Wake up! South leads a diamond back for the ruff and puts the 5♥ contract off to gain most of the matchpoints.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

Sunday Funday on 4th September 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 4th September 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.

Stroke Awareness Day on Wednesday 7th September 2022



An annual SBC fund-raising session for the Stroke Recovery Association. The Stroke Recovery Association is founded by one of our bridge players and provides a range of support and information services for people affected by Stroke and their families / carers. This year, we will run this fun event on Wednesday 7th September 2022, 10am – 1.15pm.

Snack and refreshment throughout the session, great raffle prizes and lots of spot prizes for everyone. **RED** masterpoints.

You don't need a partner. No need to book in, visitors and walk-ins are welcome. \$18 member (\$15 concession member) / \$22 visitor. Come join us for a game of meaning!

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.

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.