



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.

The Practice Finesse

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 18th October 2022

17	♠ AKJT854	Dir: N
	♥ AT4	Vul: Nil
	♦ QJ9	
♠ Q2	♠ 73	15
♥ 87632	♥ K5	10 3
♦ AJ63	♦ T98752	12
♣ K6	♣ T43	
	♠ 96	
	♥ QJ9	
	♦ KQ4	
	♣ A8752	

We had 11 tables at the 18-October Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre. Board 17 of the evening exposed a perception problem some declarers have in making a plan to get the tricks they need. The bidding was varied; some Norths opened 2♣, others opened 1♠, but nearly all pairs found their way to either 4♠ or 6♠ by North. The Diamond Ten was the most common lead, and all declarers ruffed out the ♦A for a diamond trick they didn't actually need. With no possible way to get the trumps wrong, most declarers drew 2 rounds and found themselves with two suits that needed a finesse.

So is this just a hard-luck story that both finesses fail? No, this is the story of a "practice finesse". A practice finesse is a finesse that loses you a trick if it fails, but does not gain you a trick if it succeeds; so named because it is jokingly assumed that a declarer takes it only to get practice at finessing. It is a finesse you should never take. After drawing trumps, all declarers presumably ran the Queen of Clubs, losing to the King. The West defender would have switched to a heart, hearts being the only suit that the defenders could have any tricks in. Almost half the field then attempted to finesse the heart King.

Please note that this is not a lesson in card-reading. Whether West led an honest ♥8 or a crafty ♥2 is irrelevant. Declarer should refuse to take the 50% chance of dropping a trick to the ♥K, because a better way to take all the tricks exists: simply rise with the ♥A, and rely on the clubs to provide two discards for the losing hearts. This relies on nothing more than the clubs breaking 3-2 which they are far more likely to do (68% initial chance) than break 4-1 (28% initial chance).

Five of the eleven declarers ended up with only 11 tricks, having taken a finesse that was unnecessary - a practice finesse.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

Melbourne Cup Day Bridge + Lunch on Tuesday 1st November

Melbourne Cup Day Bridge & Lunch

Bridging in style on Melbourne Cup Day! Put on your best tie / hat and join us for a Bridge Luncheon party on Tuesday 1st November 2022. We intend to run two separate fields for Open and Supervised players, lot of spot prizes to win! The SBC signature hor d'oeuvres for morning tea, roasted chicken and champagne lunch (vegetarian options available) and delicious desserts never disappoint you. Booking essential for catering purposes, please [book online](#) via the SBC website.

- Tuesday 1st November 2022, 10.00am – 2.00pm (with lunch break). Race on big screen at 3.00pm.
- \$50 for members, \$55 for visitors. You don't need a partner.

Sunday Funday on 30th 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 Funday each month, whenever the venue on Goulburn Street is available. The next few Sunday Funday will be held on:

- Sunday 30th 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 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.