



## 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 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022

<b>18</b>	♠ 87532	Dir: E
	♥ J862	Vul: N-S
	♦ A	
	♣ QJ5	
♠ K94	♠ AQT	8
♥ AQ43	♥ T97	11 9
♦ Q72	♦ T986	12
♣ T64	♣ K72	
	♠ J6	
	♥ K5	
	♦ KJ543	
	♣ A983	
		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT
		N 2 1 - 1 -
		S 2 1 - 1 -
		E - - 1 - 1
		W - - 1 - 1

One thing that it is important for a declarer to do when playing a hand is to try to visualise the hand from a defender's point of view. What seems obvious to you as declarer may not be obvious to the defender who has a considerably different view of the hand to declarer.

I saw an interesting example of this occur on Board 18 of the 15-November Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre. South had ended in a no-trump contract, and as sometimes happens when both bidders have a 5-4 shape they feel they need to describe fully, the contract was 2NT rather than the 1NT the point count of the hand actually prescribes.

The opening lead was the ♥3, which went to the 2, 7 and King. Declarer crossed to ♦A and led ♣Q. East correctly did NOT put the King on. There is a general rule that you should NOT cover an honour out of dummy when you can cover the LAST in a series of honours out of dummy, and this paid off here. East put ♣K on the follow-up lead of the ♣J. South won with the Ace, and then conceded a trick to ♣T. Note that if East had covered the initial lead of the ♣Q, the declarer would have gratefully won ♣A and then run the ♣9 back through the ♣T toward the ♣J, ending with no loser in the suit.

West won ♣T however, and led ♥4, and it is now that declarer must try to think about the arrangement of the remaining cards in the heart suit. Declarer eventually tried ♥8. This lost to ♥9, and the defenders cashed three spades and two more hearts to bring the freely bid vulnerable 2NT contract to 6 tricks and 21% of the matchpoints.

Is ♥8 such a terrible play? A brief look at the cards shows that rising with ♥J would have succeeded, but declarer perhaps did not think the underlead of the two highest remaining hearts was likely. That may be true, but I think the play of the 8 is even less likely to succeed, because the 8 is only going to be effective if West holds both ♥T and ♥9, and with both those cards (even with ♥A or ♥Q as well), West would lead ♥T not ♥4, to make things easier for East. It should be realised that the defender can see the ♥J in dummy and would know that playing the ♥A and ♥Q first makes it easy for declarer, so the underlead is the only hope to make three tricks in the suit. If declarer had J9xx in dummy to start with, the play of the 9 would be an understandable option, but with only J8xx, I think declarer should realise that at least one of the ♥T and ♥9 must be with East, and so the ♥J is the only hope.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

### Upcoming Events (please check SBC website / What's on...)



Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022  
1.30pm – 4.30pm



Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022  
1.30pm – 4.30pm



FRI 9<sup>th</sup> / WED 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
Bridge + Lunch, 1 session or 2 sessions