



## 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.

### Asleep at the Switch

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023

<b>14</b>	♠ 9763 ♥ 976 ♦ Q7652 ♣ 4	Dir: E Vul: Nil
♠ QT42 ♥ K42 ♦ AJ ♣ KQ62	♠ KJ85 ♥ A83 ♦ K93 ♣ T83	2 15 11 12
♠ A ♥ QJT5 ♦ T84 ♣ AJ975	♠ NT ♥ NT ♦ NT ♣ NT	N - - - - S - - - - E 2 - - 3 3 W 2 - - 3 3

When you are defending, you and your partner have certain tasks that you have to do. Sometimes you look at your hand, and it is so weak that you think there is nothing you can do: partner is going to have to do the lion's share of the heavy lifting on defence. It is on those hands that it is important that you examine your hand and try to make sure that you make whatever contribution it might be possible to make. It's often easier to just mentally zone out and leave partner to it; and in Pairs that is fatal.

Today's example is from Board 14 of the 24-January Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre. South opened the bidding with 1♣ but then

West bid 1N. In most cases East did not try for a 4-4 spade fit, holding an utterly flat hand, and recognising the distinct risk of club ruffs removing your partner's winners, which happens on the actual hand. The simple raise to 3N is best here, and that is what happened at most tables.

North with a 2-count decided not to lead the singleton of a club suit that seemed likely to be well-contained. However no major suit looks much better, and the chances of establishing diamonds seems unlikely even if the suit is declarer's weakest. In practice the diamond lead is worst, giving declarer a 10th trick, however three out of four 3N defenders led ♦5. Declarer then settled down to enjoying his tricks, knocking out ♠A, and leading twice toward the ♣K and ♣Q.

This seemed a comfortable 10 tricks: 3 spades, 2 hearts, 3 diamonds, and 2 clubs. There is a double-dummy play for an extra club trick, but it relies on South holding all the high clubs, which is not guaranteed beyond the ♣A. However, North was asleep at the switch, and on the club tricks, tossed a heart from the apparently valueless 976 holding. This led to a three-card pressure end position where declarer in dummy led ♦K while holding two small hearts; with declarer having ♣6 and the K4 doubleton of hearts. South had to find a discard from ♣7, ♥Q, ♥J. Given that North had thrown away a heart, compelling South to maintain the sole guard of both hearts and clubs, any discard from South gives declarer another winner by simply discarding whatever suit South does not discard. 11 tricks was worth 93% of the matchpoints.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

### Next Sunday Funday – 5<sup>th</sup> February AND 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023



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. The next few Sunday Fundays will be held on:

- 5<sup>th</sup> February AND 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

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.