



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.

Promotion!

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 3rd January 2023

20	♠ AJ95	Dir: W
	♥ AJ54	Vul: All
	♦ Q2	
	♣ AK5	
♠ T86	♠ Q7432	19
♥ 72	♥ K986	8 7
♦ AKJT93	♦ 85	6
♣ T3	♣ Q2	
	♠ K	
	♥ QT3	
	♦ 764	
	♣ J98764	

Every now and then I play a hand where I instantly know it's the one I want to write about, and Board 20 of the 03-January Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre was one of them. At our table, South had ended in a contract of 3♣, which was the most common contract. West led the ♦A and the ♦K, with East showing a doubleton. At our table, and I suspect at most of the others, West then shifted to another suit, and declarer was able to draw trumps, only losing the ♥K later, and ending with ten tricks.

The West players presumably stopped leading diamonds because they could see that dummy could ruff, but East gets to ruff after dummy. So a third round

of diamonds leaves declarer in the losing position of ruffing with the ♣5 and having East over-ruff with the ♣Q; or ruffing with one of the two high trumps in dummy, whereupon East will simply discard, knowing that Qx in the trump suit sitting behind Ax will be worth a trump trick at some point. This situation, where someone holding a trump combination that would drop under high honours, but which scores a trick in the over-ruff position because the defender is not required to ruff at all when an honour is played, is known as "promotion" of an honour.

There are other promotion situations to look out for. If you hold KTx sitting over declarer, and declarer ruffs (with Queen or Jack) a suit that you can over-ruff, don't leap to do so. If declarer has AQJ+, over-ruffing with the King gets you only one trick, with your Tx later falling under the AJ. However, if you discard and simply allow the Queen ruff to win, KTx must get you two tricks (barring a rare throw-in from the declarer).

Note on Board 20 there is actually a way for declarer to still make 10 tricks after the promotion, but it is not a line many would find. Ruff with the ♣K, clear the blocking ♠K, cross to ♣A, and run ♠J. If East covers with ♠Q, ruff and concede the ♣Q. You still have the ♥A in dummy to reach the ♠A (dropping the ♠TS) and ♠9 for heart discards. If East fails to cover ♠J, discard a heart, and concede a trump; ♥A and ♠A later get the last heart away.

Holding declarer to 9 tricks in 3♣ earns 60% of the matchpoints, whereas allowing 10 tricks earns only 30%.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

Next Sunday Funday – 22nd January and 5th 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:

- 22nd January AND 5th 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.