



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 Kiss of Death

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 10th January 2023

15	♠ T964 ♥ A862 ♦ A8 ♣ 974	Dir: S Vul: N-S
♠ 8 ♥ KJ94 ♦ QJ9654 ♣ 62	♠ AKJ732 ♥ 53 ♦ K73 ♣ J3	8 7 12 13
♠ Q5 ♥ QT7 ♦ T2 ♣ AKQT85	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT N 3 - 1 - 2 S 3 - 1 - 2 E - 3 - 2 - W - 3 - 2 -	

Competitive auctions are often hard to judge in Pairs play. It's not good enough to just work out how high you can safely go, you have to work out what score other tables are going to get ... and that may be in a wide range of contracts!

When the conflict is a part-score battle, the one thing you have to avoid is -200, sometimes called "the kiss of death". Going two off vulnerable gives your opponents a score higher than all part scores they might have got, and condemns you to a bottom score.

On Board 15 of the 10-January Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre, the bidding was vigorous. South opened 1♣, West overcalled 1♦, North doubled to show 4 cards in both majors, and East bulled ahead nevertheless with 2♠. South bid 3C, passed around to East who bid 3♦, which was passed around to North who ended the bidding with 4♣, with everyone looking at each other wondering who might not have had their bid.

The singleton ♠8 was led to 4, K and 5, and East decided to retain his spade stoppers by leading a low spade back (South might have muddled the waters a bit at trick 1 by dropping ♠Q instead of ♠5, but that is a story for another). West ruffed and led a diamond. The ♦A won, and two rounds drew the trumps. South has 6 club winners and 2 red Aces, but needs a 9th trick to avoid the dreaded 200. 3♦ looks like making, so 9 tricks for -100 is acceptable. The hearts are the obvious place to find that 9th trick, but there is no need for declarer to do that urgently, because it might be possible to force the opponents to help. The correct play here is a diamond, leaving the opponents on play. Neither opponent can lead back a diamond as the ♣9 sluff-ruff allows the 9th trick easily. If West wins the diamond exit, a heart gives the 9th trick as well, so East must win ♦K. If East leads a heart, declarer can try one of the ♥Q or ♥T, but when this is covered, declarer ducks, leaving West on play to lead into the split heart honours remaining. If East instead leads a spade for declarer to ruff, declarer has to lead ♥Q or ♥T, again leaving West on play when the card is covered, to lead into the split honours remaining. 9 tricks earned 67% of the matchpoints; 8 tricks - the kiss of death - only 17%, tying only the others in -200.

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.