



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.

Breaking up is Hard to Do

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 14th February 2023

12	♠ Q5	Dir: W
	♥ AKQ74	Vul: N-S
	♦ AQ64	
	♣ KQ	
♠ A97	♠ T82	22
♥ T65	♥ J932	5 4
♦ J975	♦ K2	9
♣ T92	♣ 8763	
	♠ KJ643	
	♥ 8	
	♦ T83	
	♣ AJ54	
		♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ NT
		N 5 4 5 6 5
		S 5 4 4 6 5
		E - - - -
		W - - - -

On Valentine's Day, we came to a theme appropriate for the occasion - breaking up! In this case, communication between declarer and dummy's hands. Those of us who had received special permission from various partners to come in and play bridge (apart from those who brought their partner along, of course), found an interesting situation on Board 12 of the 14-February Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre. The board is a "7766" - each side has two suits of 7 cards and two suits of 6 cards, so there is no fit. With 31 of the 40 points North-South ended up in 3NT most of the time. Two tried 6N, but the absence of long tricks left both short of requirements. The dreaded disease FONT (Fear Of No-Trump) saw 2 people in 4♥ and 1 in 4♠.

With South playing the 3N contract at our table, the ♠T was led, which at least gave nothing away. South cashed the other stiff club honour in dummy and led the ♠Q. West took the Ace and led a heart ... but the opportunity had been missed. Declarer was now able to cross to the ♠K and when the suit split 3-3, had 12 winners. for 90% on the board.

West missed a big chance. Ducking the ♠Q would have shut declarer out from his own hand. Two club winners and three spade winners would have been stranded in the closed hand without an entry to reach them. If declarer had continued with a spade, West would win ♠A, and exit with a heart, and suddenly the defenders can play just against the dummy. Declarer can play hearts and end up with 9 tricks, but that would score less than half of the matchpoints.

The opportunity to cut declarer off from dummy occurs quite a lot, but this breakup is rarer. Declarer made a mistake in cashing the second club winner. The ♠Q should have been played first, so that when West takes the second round of spades and leads a club, declarer can win with the ♠A - giving up one of the four club tricks by the overtake, but preserving the length of the spade suit. This makes 11 tricks, the maximum in NT.

The chancer in 4♠ is the only one who can legitimately make 12 tricks. The 3 heart winners take away South's diamond losers, and with the spades fortunately 3-3, 12 tricks roll home.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

Next Sunday Funday – 5th and 19th March 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:

- 5th AND 19th March 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.