



## 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.

### Hold Up!

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

<b>16</b>	♠ AK64	Dir: W
	♥ T65	Vul: E-W
	♦ A85	
	♣ AQ8	
♠ Q53	♠ T72	17
♥ K7	♥ 943	6 5
♦ J64	♦ KQ972	12
♣ T7542	♣ 96	
	♠ J98	
	♥ AQJ82	
	♦ T3	
	♣ KJ3	

Flat hands with an 8-card major fit and a few extra points than needed for game sometimes play just as well in No-Trump as in the suit, but I would recommend to less experienced players that they not worry about that - if you find an 8-card major fit, play in it. On Board 16 of the 31-January Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre, three played in the 5-3 fit, and four went for the 3N game. There were mixed results.

All the 4♥ contracts finished with 10 tricks. After a diamond opening, the heart finesse loses and a diamond is cashed, with an inevitable spade loser to follow. The 3N contract needed to make 10 tricks as well to beat that score. Two

declarers made 10 tricks, two did not.

The key resource for declarer here is the play called the hold-up. When a diamond is led, declarer declines to play his ♦A until the third round. Then, when the heart finesse loses, it loses to a West who has no further diamonds. Whatever West returns, declarer cashes up 2 spades, 4 hearts, 1 diamond and 3 clubs for 10 tricks and 430 points ... 10 more than the 4♥ declarers.

Two declarers however, took their ♦A before the third round. Now, when the heart finesse lost, West was able to lead a diamond and the defenders got ♥K and 4 diamonds to beat the 3N contract.

The key to correct hold-up play is to wait until the shorter hand is playing their last card in the suit before you win the trick. This ensures that any trick the declarer subsequently loses only results in the defenders' suit cashing out if the trick is lost to the defender with the longer holding in the suit.

The hold-up is a very simple play, but it obviously isn't universally known. Here it made the difference between scoring 79% and 9%.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

### Next Sunday Funday – 19<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup> 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:

- 19<sup>th</sup> February AND 5<sup>th</sup> 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.