



## 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 Finesse that Worked (and cost two tricks)

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

<b>8</b>		♠ JT974	Dlr: W
		♥ J73	Vul: Nil
		♦ Q76	
		♣ 76	
♠ 6	♠ AK85		4
♥ 84	♥ AQT2		6 21
♦ KT532	♦ A94		9
♣ QJT83	♣ A4		
	♠ Q32		
	♥ K965		
	♦ J8		
	♣ K952		
		♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ NT	
		N - - - -	
		S - - - -	
		E 5 5 4 2 4	
		W 5 5 3 2 4	

A lot of bridge players love a finesse. Sometimes however the finesse possibility beckoning to them blinds them to other more lucrative possibilities.

A good example occurred on Board 8 of the 07-March Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre. At most tables East ended in 3N, often with all suits bid. Various Souths had a difficult lead choice, and at one table ♣2 was led. Declarer saw a free finesse! The ♣Q was played and it won! Only then did declarer realise that in safely taking the first two tricks in clubs, the yield from the club suit had dropped from four tricks with the finesse NOT working to two tricks when it DID work. With the clubs blocked by the Ace and only the DK as

an entry, declarer cannot set up the clubs. He finessed ♥Q at trick 2, and conceded a diamond to make 10 tricks.

The correct way to play the clubs is to ignore the finesse. Play low from dummy, win with the ♣A and lead a club toward dummy. South can take ♣K whenever; but the 4 tricks in the suit are there for declarer, and reachable with the ♦K. And declarer has conceded a trick only to South, the hand that cannot successfully attack the hearts. No matter what South returns, declarer concedes a diamond and makes 11 tricks (2 spades, 1 heart, 4 diamonds, and 4 clubs) without even risking a finesse in clubs or hearts.

A few interesting points. The ♣2 as a 4th-best lead means that South will have only 4 of the suit. With 5 of the suit, the card above the 2 would have been led as 4th-best. Secondly, even if South HAD led the ♣2 from five clubs, playing ♣Q to win the first two tricks does not gain, because when declarer instead plays ♣A and then leads toward the dummy, South cannot play the King on empty air from a five-card holding without conceding four club tricks anyway. And once the second club trick is won, declarer is better off than anyone taking the free finesse anyway, because the ♠J can be safely led to set up a third club trick, as South cannot attack the remaining T8 club holding with 9x. Declarer can then set up diamonds as before, and try for a heart finesse for 11 tricks.

The hard-to-find spade lead was best, the only lead to hold declarer to 10 tricks. Making an 11th trick instead of 10 improved declarer's score from 57% to 86%.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

### Next Sunday Funday – 19<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> 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.