



## 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.

### Old Dogs, New Tricks

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

<b>16</b>	♠ KT3	Dir: W
	♥ T87642	Vul: E-W
	♦ 75	
	♣ A2	
♠ Q54	♠ A9876	7
♥ KJ9	♥ 3	11 12
♦ K96	♦ AT	10
♣ QT87	♣ KJ954	
	♠ J2	
	♥ AQ5	
	♦ QJ8432	
	♣ 63	

Most of the columns I write here are about play not bidding, because to me the beauty of bridge lies in the play. I usually look for a simple tactic that occurred in the play of last week's hands, and often my guide to that is comparing the number of tricks made by those playing the hand with the number of tricks the double-dummy analysis says is possible.

The double-dummy analysis is exactly what it says: it is the best play and defence of the hand if both sides were seeing all four hands exposed on the table. Sometimes that means that the analysis says you can make a certain number of tricks, but that target can only be achieved by an unlikely play. However I would always recommend to players keen to learn that they examine

the double-dummy analysis, because sometimes when it seems impossible, it can teach you a new idea.

Board 16 of the 28-February Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre, contained one such example. The majority of the field played in a spade contract. Quick examination of the hands showed that declarer is going to lose the ♥A, the ♣A, and two trumps. However the double-dummy analysis shows that ten tricks can be made. As the two Aces can be cashed at any time by the defenders, there must be a way of holding the trump losers to one.

The obvious method of cashing ♠A and leading toward the ♠Q does not work: the ♠K wins, and ♠T is good. Nor does immediately leading toward ♠Q: the ♠K wins, and the defenders must get another trick with their remaining honours. The beginner's play of going to dummy and leading the ♠Q for a "finesse" will work only against those who don't know how to cover an honour.

So how is it done? An intra-finesse and pin! You lead one of your 9876 toward the dummy, and play low (the 'intra-finesse'). If South inserts the ♠J, the ♠Q is played on it losing to ♠K, and a later finesse of the Ace and 8 picks up the suit for only one loser. In practice the 9 led will be won by North's Ten. Later, you enter dummy and lead the ♠Q. Whether North ducks or covers, the Jack falls under the ♠Q (the 'pin'), and only one trick is lost in trumps.

The intra-finesse is a rare play usually only used when the bidding has made it clear that the King is sitting over the Queen in this situation. My suggestion today is not that you intra-finesse on this hand, but that you examine the double-dummy analysis and investigate when it seems to suggest impossible things. You might learn some new tricks!

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.