



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.

Put your Honours on Your Opponents' Honours

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 21st February 2023

12	♠ 97 ♥ 73 ♦ JT82 ♣ 87432	Dir: W Vul: N-S
♠ 4 ♥ AK954 ♦ A763 ♣ J96	♠ AK653 ♥ T6 ♦ 954 ♣ KT5	1 12 10 17
♠ QJT82 ♥ QJ82 ♦ KQ ♣ AQ	♠ NT ♥ NT ♦ NT ♣ NT	N - - - - S - - - - E 2 1 2 1 1 W 1 1 2 1 1

Aces were made to be played on Kings; Kings were made to be played on Queens; Queens were made to be played on Jacks. Part of the subtle interplay of declarer versus defenders in bridge is an attempt to make sure your honours are used to prevent the opponents' honours winning. Every time you play an honour on a small card, there's a significant chance you are giving the opposition an advantage. And yet I often see players cashing high cards - and allowing their opponents to play small cards underneath it - when it is not necessary.

A good example came up on Board 12 of the 14-February Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre. All of the field played in no-trump ... but two of those contracts were by South, not East-West! South is in a dire position for this contract, having no access to dummy at all. However, both declarers made the contract because West, on lead, started with an Ace. In one case, it was the ♦A, with a shift then to ♥A and ♥K, in the other case it was ♥A and ♥K. In both cases, declarer knocked out the spade honours that East held and made 3 spade tricks, 2 hearts, a diamond and a club.

Even when you have a good hand, you should lead low in no-trump, trying to preserve your honours. Leading a low heart in this hand goes to the ♥T and declarer's ♥Q. Declarer will then lead a spade and East will send through a deadly heart so West cashes four heart tricks. Declarer has to hang on to both clubs (or else West exits with a club). West then exits with DA and another diamond, and declarer will later lose a spade and a club, ending with only 5 tricks.

On this hand, it certainly helps that declarer has no access to dummy's diamond suit, but the principle comes up on so many hands, and so many players don't seem to realise they are losing tricks by playing high cards on empty air. The two heart tricks South received brought the total to 7, which was worth 75% of the matchpoints.

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.