



## 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.

### Unblock!

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 14th March 2023

<b>17</b>	♠ Q6	Dir: N				
	♥ K74	Vul: Nil				
	♦ QT964					
	♣ A87					
♠ T93	♠ 82	11				
♥ Q	♥ J652	5	11			
♦ K875	♦ AJ2	13				
♣ T9432	♣ KQ65					
♠ AKJ754						
♥ AT983						
♦ 3						
♣ J						
	♠	♥	♦	NT		
	N	-	1	6	6	4
	S	-	1	6	6	4
	E	2	-	-	-	-
	W	2	-	-	-	-

There was an interesting situation on Board 17 of the 14-March Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre, where the only way to get the full swag of matchpoints was to be very alert at Trick 1.

South's powerful two-suiter led to most North-South pairs happily playing in 4♠. The most common opening lead was the ♥Q. I do not agree with this lead. Leading a singleton around to declarer's second suit gives away a trick more often than it gains one. On this hand it did not give declarer anything declarer could not get anyway, but it is still not recommended.

When ♥Q hit the green baize, most declarers recognised that it was a singleton. That meant that the ♥J in the East hand could be picked up later with a finesse, as long as the ♥K was played from dummy on the first trick. Having worked this out, the declarers drew trumps and crossed to ♣A to take that heart finesse.

The heart finesse worked - to some extent. The ♥8 won in hand but there was no way to get back to dummy to repeat the finesse when West showed out of hearts as expected. This left a few declarers settling for 11 tricks, which still got them a decent score.

The declarers got it right at Trick 1 when playing ♥K from dummy, but they did not get it right at Trick 1 in their own hand. It is necessary to hang onto the ♥3 and play ♥8 (or ♥9 or ♥10). This means that later when you enter dummy with the ♣A, you can lead the ♥7, and run it by playing ♥3, keeping the lead in dummy to finesse again. Putting the ♥J on the ♥7 does not help East, and declarer makes 12 tricks.

Unblocking situations like this occur often and are often missed. They are not something that is pre-learned, except for the basic ability to sense when they are needed ... you can work them out over the board as long as you think about it in time. Only one declarer took 12 tricks, and was rewarded with 100% on the board.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

### Next Sunday Funday – 2<sup>nd</sup> April then 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April 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:

- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April, 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.