



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.

Unblocking in Defence

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 21st March 2023

7		♠ AJT9	Dlr: S
		♥ AT5	Vul: All
		♦ 8643	
		♣ 43	
♠ 54	♠ KQ32	9	
♥ K9874	♥ Q2	12 11	
♦ A9	♦ Q7	8	
♣ AJ52	♣ QT987		
♠ 876			
♥ J63			
♦ KJT52			
♣ K6			

Last week we looked at a situation where declarer had to see the need for an unblock as early as Trick 1. But it is not only the declarer who has to stay aware of unblocking opportunities. On Board 7 of the 21-March Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre, a good choice of lead had to be followed up with getting out of partner's way after that.

East-West bid the 12-and-11 point hands to a doomed 2NT contract, doomed because it was played by West, exposing the disastrous diamond holding to immediate attack. Why did North find the diamond lead from 8-6-4-3 rather than a spade from A-J-T-9? Because spades had been bid on North's LEFT. It is

dangerous to attack a suit bid on your left, because if either the K or Q is with your right hand opponent, leading the suit will give a trick to the card you could have prevented from winning. It is also dubious to lead a suit where you know you cannot be setting up a winner by length: the bidder has at least four.

So the ♦6 lead (second from four small) went to ♦Q and ♦K, ducked and ♦J then forced ♦A, with North playing ♦3 (playing the 4th-highest shows the suit is 4-long not a middle-up-down tripleton). Declarer short-sightedly refused to give up the lead to get to dummy for the club finesse, playing ♣A and another club instead. South won ♣K and led ♦T. Declarer showed out, making it easy for North to throw ♦8 underneath so that the subsequent ♦5 lead was higher than ♦4 and the ♦2 also scored. Simple and obvious, but how often is that D8 throw missed? Two defensive Aces to come saw declarer two off and North-South with all the matchpoints.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

** Martin is on holiday in Europe until end of May. His column will take a break while he is on leave. However the Tuesday night session will continue to run under Phil Halloran (host) and Chris Hamam (director). The best acknowledgement to Phil, Martin and the volunteers' hard work is to continuously show up!*

Next Sunday Funday – 2nd April then 16th and 30th 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:

- 2nd, 16th and 30th 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.