



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.

Give "I Don't Like" Signal if there is Something Better

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 9th May 2023

17	♠ 962	Dir: N
	♥ AQJ2	Vul: Nil
	♦ 72	
	♣ Q952	
♠ QT43	♠ AK87	9
♥ K7	♥ 3	8 14
♦ KT94	♦ AQ863	9
♣ 643	♣ J87	
	♠ J5	
	♥ T98654	
	♦ J5	
	♣ AKT	
		NT
	N 3 - 3 - -	
	S 3 - 3 - -	
	E - 3 - 3 -	
	W - 3 - 3 -	

Most bridge players understand the basics of the "I like" signal. You play a card that tells your partner that you like what they have led and would like to see it continued. You might play "High Encourage", where a high card says you like the lead, or you might play "Low Encourage", where a low card says you like the lead - you should have agreed this with your partner before playing; it's the single most important thing to agree on! There are other systems as well, but these are the two most common.

So that seems pretty straightforward, right? It's a suit you like, you give the encouraging card! Well, it is more subtle than that. You should only play an

encouraging card when the suit led is the one you want continued. NOT simply when you have a good card or a good holding in the suit led. In other words, it is important to play a card that is DISCOURAGING if there is a different suit you would prefer led. Usually partner is able to work out which suit that is.

A good example of this happened on Board 17 of the 09-May Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre. West ended in 4S after North had overcalled a 4-card heart suit (worth doing with a suit that needs to be led toward like AQJx), and South raised the hearts. North then led HA. This appears to be catastrophic, setting up the HK for declarer. However, as long as a club shift comes immediately, the defenders get the first four tricks and the HK is useless for declarer.

But South failed to give a clear "I DON'T 'Like" signal. South, holding Ace and King of clubs, should be desperate to tell North to shift - by discouraging hearts. South expected North to have the HK, but that is irrelevant. It's important to tell North about the quick club tricks, and that can only happen by making the negative signal in hearts.

Four declarers played in spades. Two defenders led HA. Both failed the signal test and gave declarer a tenth trick, sharing a bottom score.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

Upcoming Events (please check SBC website / What's on...)



Sunday 28th May 2023
1.30pm – 4.30pm



Sunday 28th May 2023
1.30pm – 4.30pm



WED 24th May 2023 Charity Game
Two separate fields 10.00am – 1.15pm