



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.

Suits That Look Easy

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 30th May 2023

14	♠ Q876	Dlr: E
	♥ A76	Vul: Nil
	♦ 842	
	♣ J85	
♠ 9	♠ J532	7
♥ K53	♥ QT92	8 7
♦ QJ97	♦ T53	18
♣ Q9742	♣ A3	
	♠ AKT4	
	♥ J84	
	♦ AK6	
	♣ KT6	
		NT
	N - - - 2 2	
	S - - 1 2 2	
	E 1 - - -	
	W 1 - - -	

One thing that separates good players from weaker players, especially when they are the declarer of a hand, is how they look at a suit that seems an easy one to play. The classic suit, and one that turned up on Board 14 of the 30-May Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre, is when you have four cards in dummy and in hand, and they include the Ace, King and Queen.

Weaker players immediately classify this suit mentally as four tricks in the bank. It's true that the defenders' 5 cards in the suit will break 3-2 a good 68% of the time, allowing an easy four tricks by cashing Ace, King and Queen in any order, but good declarers use that knowledge to focus entirely on how

they can make four tricks when the suit does NOT break 3-2.

This relies on what other cards are in the suit. The holding on Board 14 had Q876 opposite AKT4. This arrangement can pick up a four-card holding under the AKT4 by simply cashing the Ace and then the Queen (not the King), leaving declarer in position to take the finesse through the KT when it becomes apparent whether it is necessary. If all follow to the first two rounds, just play the K and make the last one.

A complication occurs only if the 9 falls from your left after playing the Ace. Now you can play for either hand to have 4, and finesse through them. In practice, the 9 will be singleton because with J9xx, the defender has a safe trick. This is not always the case, though: if East had had J9xx, he should play the 9 under the Ace, to give declarer a chance to go wrong. However declarer should not get this wrong anyway because of earlier evidence. The opening lead was a club to the Ace, then a club to the Queen, then a club to declarer's King, with East unable to follow. With West having 5 clubs to East's 2, it is much more likely that East has 4 spades than West.

At our table declarer cashed the Ace and the King, and found the 4-1 break too late to recover. Two off in 3N was an equal bottom with 28% of the matchpoints. It is no good complaining about the 4-1 break: everyone else got that too. As declarer the 4-1 break is the only one you should be worried about, as the 3-2 plays itself.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

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



Sunday 11th & 25th June 2023
1.30pm – 4.30pm



Friday 23rd June 2023, 10.00am
Bidding Strong Hands & Slams



Monday 12th June 2023
City – Open as normal, RED masterpoints
Canada Bay – Closed. NO bridge that day.