



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.

Le Mort

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 4th July 2023

16		♠ T2	Dir: W
		♥ K7	Vul: E-W
		♦ AKQ8754	
		♣ J4	
♠ A9754	♠ Q83	13	
♥ AT5	♥ QJ86	18	5
♦ J	♦ T92	4	
♣ AKQT	♣ 765		
♠ KJ6			
♥ 9432			
♦ 63			
♣ 9832			

In bridge in the French-speaking world, what we call 'dummy' is known as 'le mort' ... which means 'the dead.' Sometimes it's important to make sure the dummy stays dead ... because when declarer has no way to get to dummy, it's very hard to generate tricks.

Board 16 of the 04-July Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre showed TWO lovely demonstrations of killing the dummy. At one table, North was allowed to play in 3♦ after West had bid spades, and ♠3 was led. The play went to ♠6, ♠A and ♠2, and West, hoping his partner had led a

singleton, returned a spade. ♠J won, ♠K allowed a club discard, and a heart toward the King saw declarer through to 10 tricks and a 100% matchpoint score. How could the defenders have done better?

West could have cashed two clubs instead of looking for ruffs, holding declarer to 9 tricks. However West could have done even better: by ducking the first trick! Playing the ♠9 loses to ♠10, but now declarer cannot get to dummy. A spade to ♠J will lose to ♠A, and then West's clubs are cashed. Declarer ruffs and draws trumps but has to lead away from the ♥K while the winning ♠K sits uselessly in the dead dummy. Only 8 tricks.

However the defender was not the only player to make an error. Declarer should play the Jack on the opening lead! Putting the Jack up - the normally incorrect second-hand-high - concedes the chance of a second spade trick, but it guarantees that North-South's spade winner is won in dummy not in hand, so declarer can take the heart finesse to make 9.

East-West should however bid to ♠4. Does it make? With a diamond and ♥K losing, declarer needs to hold the trump losers to one. Is it possible? Yes, but it's difficult; requiring an 'intra-finesse'. Lead a spade toward the dummy and insert the 8! South wins ♠J. Later declarer enters the East hand with a heart (patiently losing ♥K first if necessary) and leads ♠Q, 'pinning' North's Ten while finessing ♠K. So do East-West make game? No, only West does! If East plays it, an opening heart lead and continuation does not allow the late heart entry after the intra-finesse except when North is out of hearts. This makes the closed hand, and East's 4♠ contract, 'mort'.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

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



Sunday 16th and 30th July
1.30pm – 4.30pm



Friday 28th July, 10.00am
Making the most of Weak Hands



Over 3 Thursdays on 13th, 20th & 27th July
SBC State Open Pairs Qualifying