



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.

Loser on Loser

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 13th June 2023

14	♠ KT953	Dir: E
	♥ 52	Vul: Nil
	♦ J53	
	♣ AQ6	
♠ QJ42	♠ 86	10
♥ 974	♥ AKQJ8	4 13
♦ T87	♦ K94	13
♣ J98	♣ T75	
	♠ A7	
	♥ T63	
	♦ AQ62	
	♣ K432	

Something declarer should always do when playing a hand is to check whether winning a trick that you CAN win is necessarily the best thing to do. There was an excellent example of this on Board 14 of the 13-June Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre.

North played the hand in 2♠ after East had bid hearts. The 5-2 major suit trump fit is the best North-South can find after they realise they do not have a stopper in the heart suit. Declarer ruffed the third round of hearts, then played a trump to the ♠A, then a spade back to the ♠9 ... an option which is not quite best but

worked a treat here. When the ♠9 won, declarer knew where both of the remaining spades were and that it was not urgent to cash the ♠K, which would have left the defenders able to draw trumps.

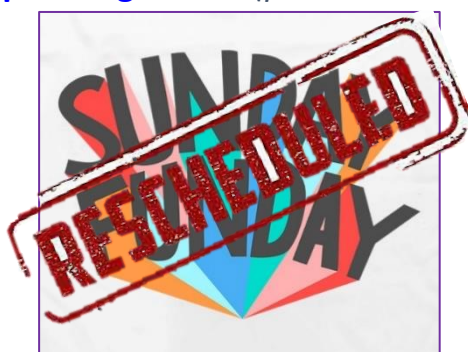
The contract is clearly making, but as it is Pairs play, it is important to make as many overtricks as possible. Declarer finessed the ♦Q, then crossed back to ♣A, ♣Q, and then dummy's ♣K. Declarer then led the ♦A, and finally the last club. West ruffed with the ♠Q (otherwise declarer simply discards his diamond loser, and must make his ♠K later for ten tricks).

It is very tempting for declarer to almost automatically put ♠K on the ♠Q, but note what happens after that: declarer has a spade loser and a diamond loser left and must lose both no matter which he leads. However declarer thought about the position, and let West's ♠Q win, discarding the diamond loser instead. This is called a loser-on-loser play. Declarer was left with ♠K and ♠T and made BOTH the last two tricks easily.

There are other ways to play the hand (declarer could have safely drawn ♠K after the diamond finesse worked) but the final three-card position is interesting: declarer lets West win the trump trick the defenders are always going to win, while discarding the diamond loser he was always going to lose, on the same trick.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

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



Please note that there will be NO bridge on Sunday 25th June 2023, due to power shutdown for replacement of the building AC cabinet.

The next Sunday Fundays will now be on:

- Sunday 2nd July 2023, 1.30pm start
- Sunday 16th July 2023, 1.30pm start
- Sunday 30th July 2023, 1.30pm start

Sensational food and drink, good game with great company!