

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.

Investigate First

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 29th August 2023

24	♠ 73	Dir: W
	♥ KQ53	Vul: Nil
	♦ K963	
	♣ KQJ	
♠ QJ854	♠ AT	14
♥ T842	♥ 976	3 14
♦	♦ AQT7	9
♣ 8732	♣ A654	
	♠ K962	
	♥ AJ	
	♦ J8542	
	♣ T9	

When you are the declarer playing a bridge hand you will have certain decisions to make. Players often make these decisions on the best information available to them, but if they had thought a little more about things, they might have been able to investigate to get more information before making the decision.

On Board 24 of the 29-August Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre, most North players ended up playing in their 5-4 diamond fit, and found things difficult when East turned up with a lot of trumps. One in 5♦-doubled was doomed, but two were in 3♦-doubled, along with a 3♦ contract and a 2♦ contract. None of these declarers made the 9 tricks that are possible

on the hand. I think those who were doubled should have made it, and also those who got any sort of no-trump bid from East.

In one 3♦-doubled contract, the lead was the ♠A then a heart to South's Ace. Declarer lost a club to the Ace, received a club back, and then led a trump toward the dummy. The 7 was played and declarer played the ♦J, playing the ♦A and ♦Q to be with East. This was a correct assumption, but when West showed out, the ♦T was also shown to be there and now East had to make 3 trump tricks along with the two black Aces.

Declarer could have finessed dummy's ♦8, but would have looked rather foolish if it had lost to a singleton ♦T. So what's the answer? Simply lead a diamond from dummy toward the ♦K. The ♦K will certainly lose to the hand that bid NT or doubled, but so what? It was always going to lose! And in losing, it resolves declarer's problem of whether it is necessary to finesse the ♦8 or the ♦J. West's void is revealed, and every time the North hand is reached, a trump finesse can be taken, bring 9 tricks in, as after the black Aces are shown to be in the East hand as well (always highly likely) there is no possibility of West ever getting the lead to create any danger of East winning a trick by ruffing.

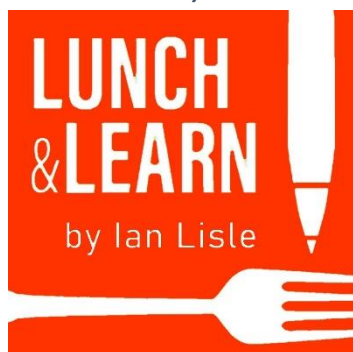
Making 3♦-doubled would have been worth 100%, and even for those undoubled, 9 tricks would have netted 71%. Making 8 tricks when doubled was only worth 29%.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

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



Sunday 24th Sept
1.30pm – 4.30pm



Lunch & Learn
Tuesday 19th September 2023
1.15pm-ish after session
Stay behind for a study group
facilitated by Ian Lisle



Friday 15th September 2023
10am – 3.30pm
 Improve Your Declarer Play