



## 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.

### When Disaster Strikes

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023

8		♠ T743	Dlr: W
		♥ J72	Vul: Nil
		♦ QT	
		♣ AJ95	
♠ A865	♠ Q2	8	
♥ K5	♥ AT984	13	6
♦ K532	♦ 64	13	
♣ K42	♣ T763		
♠ KJ9	♠ NT		
♥ Q63	N - 2 - 1 3		
♦ AJ987	S - 2 - 2 3		
♣ Q8	E - 1 - -		
	W 1 - - -		

Sometimes in a bridge hand, the opening lead is made, dummy comes down and you realise things are very woeful indeed. It is very important when that is the case to understand that this is Pairs, and your score depends on a comparison with other declarers who may be in exactly the same situation.

The first thing to do once you realise your contract is hopeless is to try to work out whether the problem is because you and your partner bid badly, or simply that the cards lie badly. If your bidding was at fault, you should examine what contract most people will be in and see if you can manage to beat the score made by those playing that contract. If that is not possible, try to find a line that at

least beats some of the declarers playing the likely contract but playing it badly.

However a lot of the time, when YOU are in trouble, so are all the other declarers. Some bridge hands just turn out badly for correct bidding. Bridge bidding is not an exact science. The key when this happens is to play as well as you can, setting yourself a target that is achievable even if it does not make the contract. The alternative is a panicky attempt to play for miracles.

On Board 16 of the 12-September Tuesday night face-to-face game at the Sydney Bridge Centre, the 1N contract by East was indeed disastrous. Most E-W pairs bid 1♦-1♥-1♠-1N without N-S interfering (South's diamond suit had been bid by West, so there seemed no way in). South did however lead a diamond, and declarer looked at a hand with little chance to make 1N. The diamond went to the ♦Q with North, who returned a club (not best) to the 8 and King. Declarer tried a spade to the Queen, but the King took this and lead a diamond to the King. Declarer played ♥K and then a heart to the Ten. Only the ♠A was made by declarer after that, 4 tricks being 3 light for only 31% of the matchpoints.

The attempt to play a heart lower than the Ace was obviously wrong, but the important point here is that playing the Ace, although it gives declarer only 5 tricks for 2-light, would have resulted in a 63% matchpoint score! A hand that is hard for you as declarer is hard for others as well.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

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



Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept  
1.30pm – 4.30pm



**Beginners Course**  
7 Wednesdays from 27<sup>th</sup>  
September – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
Choice of Morning or Evening class  
**Youth Bridge Course**  
4 days from 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September



**Workshop**  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
10am – 3.30pm  
Improve Your Declarer Play