



Tuesday Night Tips The Sydney Bridge Centre mini lesson

The Tuesday night BBO has discontinued from 1st December 2021. Please join Martin Clear on Tuesday night for a Face-to-face game at Sydney Bridge Centre, 7.15pm start.

Martin Clear continues to host and lead the group for bridge discussion after the session. He will also pick an interesting hand from the face-to-face session for the Tuesday Tips column.

What Lead beats the 3♥ Contract?

F2F at City – Tuesday Night 21st December 2021

19	♠ 5	Dir: S
	♥ JT9	Vul: E-W
♦ QJT9832	♠ K82	5
♣ J8	♥ 85	7 12
♠ 9643	♦ K6	16
♥ 7643	♠ AQ7432	
♦ A7	♠ AQJT7	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT
♣ K96	♥ AKQ2	N - 3 2 1 -
	♦ 54	S - 3 2 1 -
	♣ T5	E 2 - - 1
		W 2 - - 1

There was an interesting hand in the Tuesday night face-to-face play at the Sydney Bridge Centre on 21 December, with a counter-intuitive solution needed to beat the contract.

There is always a lot of variations in the bidding sequence in misfit hands. At our table South ended in a Three Heart contract. South had started with a 1♠ bid, his partner bid 1N and East came in with a 2♣ bid. South's rebid of 2♥ convinced North to raise to 3♥ and that was passed out. While you might want to be in a diamond contract here, it is very difficult to get to. North cannot bid 2♦ on the first bid, because it is forcing and promises 10+ points. Once South has shown 5 spades and 4 or 5 hearts, North should

accept a contract in Hearts with a singleton spade and three hearts, especially good ones like JT9.

The opening lead was a heart. When the responder accepts opener's second suit as trumps, it is usually because of a shortage in opener's first suit, and a hope that the dummy will provide some ruffs in that suit. To prevent this, the defence should often start with a trump lead, and continue with trump leads thereafter. However the purpose of this defence is to prevent declarer ruffing losers in spades, and the defence in such a situation has to change its mind if it becomes clear that declarer has his spades set up already. In Pairs, it is important to abandon a failed plan even when there is no alternate plan that will defeat the contract: it may be essential to instead grab whatever tricks are available.

In the hand above, the trump lead actually concedes the contract. Declarer can win in dummy, finesse in spades, cash the spade Ace, and ruff a spade. When the KS drops, declarer can lead the ♥T to his three trumps, and then cash his two good spades to take the first 9 tricks, making the contract.

The line to beat the contract is an extraordinary one. The defence have to cash their four winners in the minor suits - setting up diamonds in the dummy - and then lead another club, giving declarer a sluff/ruff! Declarer is forced to use one of dummy's trumps to ruff a club while discarding a spade ... but he actually wanted to ruff a spade. It seems the same, but the difference is that the defender with Kxx in spades is playing a club not a spade on this trick, and now declarer's plan of finessing a spade, cashing AS and ruffing a spade to set the spade up does not work, because with only one trump left in dummy after the spade ruff, declarer cannot get back to his hand to draw trumps except by overtaking dummy's last trump. This fails to West's 4 card trump holding, and declarer is limited to eight tricks.

Tuesday night face-to-face play at the Sydney Bridge Centre re-commences on 11 January. If you'd like to play some bridge with real cards against real people, with some hand analysis afterwards, contact Sydney Bridge Centre.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

More Bridge in the New Year

Our City venue has reopened on Monday 3rd January 2022, and our Inner West venue at Canada Bay Club will restart bridge sessions on Monday 10th January 2022.

- F2F @ CITY -

There will be sessions every day from Monday to Thursday at City, with a separated field for Supervised players on Wednesday morning. All morning sessions start at 10.00am. We have two evening sessions – the Tuesday night is for Open (7.15pm start), please contact office for pre-arrangement if you are not a regular of this session. The Wednesday night is a study group for Supervised players, 6.30pm start and aim to finish at 9.00pm.

- F2F @ CANADA BAY -

To start with, we will have two morning sessions in Canada Bay Club. We co-host the Monday morning session with Strathfield Bridge Club and add an extra Thursday morning session to the week. Both club members will enjoy member's rate for the table money fee. Cash only for the moment, we intend to extend the usage of PP over there.

Please find the details of [the session timetables](#) and find out [more about our venues](#) on our website.

- ONLINE @ BBO -

If you prefer to play online, there are regular club sessions on Monday morning (10.15am), Thursday afternoon (1.45pm) and Saturday afternoon (1.45pm) on BBO. To join our online game, please follow this [step by step guidelines](#).

BB\$4 for 24 boards.