



Tuesday Night Tips The Sydney Bridge Centre mini lesson

If you have joined our F2F session on Tuesday night, you probably already know the host Martin Clear. He is a big fan of the evening game because of his daytime job, and has been leading the group for bridge discussion after the session. This "discussion" will now continue online - Each week Martin will play in the field and pick an interesting hand from the Tuesday night BBO session. Join your bridge buddy for a game on Tuesday night (7.15pm start)!

It's a Cut-Throat Game without Communication

#26407 BBO – Tuesday Night 21st September 2021

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">8</div>	N ♠ 84 ♥ Q7643 ♦ A42 ♣ K42	W N E S P P 1♠ P 1♥ P 1NT P 2NT P P P	
	W ♠ A109 ♥ A1085 ♦ Q83 ♣ 1076	E ♠ KJ2 ♥ J ♦ J965 ♣ AQ985	
	S ♠ Q7653 ♥ K92 ♦ K107 ♣ J3		2NT E NS: 0 EW: 0

One of the peculiar aspects of bridge compared to other card games is that each hand is ultimately played 'cut-throat': two players against one. Bridge is the same as other four-handed card games in that two hands play against two opposing hands; what makes bridge unique is that one intelligence controls both hands for one side. This gives the declarer a communication advantage, being able to find, establish and maintain lines of communication between his two hands while the defenders have to work - at least initially - in the dark to do the same.

A bridge hand can often be an interesting fight to prevent the declarer establishing solid communication between his two hands, because broken communication can allow the defenders to play against one of declarer's hands only. This situation often arises when there is no way to enter the dummy ... this is sometimes called a "dead dummy" and it usually results in declarer losing every trick it is possible to lose thereafter. On Board 8 of the Sydney Bridge Centre & Friends competition on BBO on Tuesday Night 21st September, it was declarer's closed hand that ran a significant risk of death ... but the defenders failed to bang the final nail in the coffin.

The bidding was simple: East opened 1♣, West responded with 1♥, and East bid 1N. West chanced an invite to game with 2N, ("I had some nice Tens, partner"), but East's 12-count even with the 5-4 shape did not tempt him to bid again, and 2N was the contract. One other pair played it in 2N, with the rest of the field divided between those who stopped at 1N, and those who played it in clubs and received the due punishment meted out to those who play in minor contracts in Pairs competitions: they made no more tricks than the no-trump contracts and got considerably worse scores.

South opened his 4th-best spade, and was dismayed when dummy's 9 held the first trick. Declarer finessed a club to the Jack, and South decided it was unlikely declarer had an unmentioned 4-card spade suit, so he might as well continue with spades. Declarer ran this around to the Jack ... not the best move, as suddenly he realised he wanted to take another club finesse but any entry to dummy exposed a number of losers. So he cashed the ♣A hoping to drop the King, and then exited with a club. On this trick, South signalled vigorously with the ♦10, so North duly under-led his Ace to ♦K and the last spade stopper was removed.

Declarer had won 4 tricks to the defenders' 3, but was trapped in dummy, with a number of winners stuck in the closed hand. He led ♦Q from dummy, and North failed to recognise declarer's problem and rose with the ♦A. Now declarer was able to take the rest of the tricks for +150 and a 64% score.

North should duck the ♦Q, consigning declarer's winners in the minors to be wastepaper. North should realise that if East has the ♥K left (the sole possible entry card), declarer would have 14 points and would have accepted the invite to game.

If the ♦Q is ducked, declarer can only make the ♥A and will end up with a grim total of 5 tricks. Exiting with a diamond produces this result only by South carefully discarding one of his winning spades however. On winning ♦A, North leads a heart to the King, and once declarer wins this with the Ace, the dummy has to lead from T8x into the split heart tenace of Q and 9. If ♥K is allowed to win, South cashes a spade and leads through ♥A to North's ♥Q. If South fails to throw a spade under the diamond Ace, declarer can carefully play the ♥A only on the ♥K not the ♥Q, thus preventing access to the spade winners. North should lead small to the ♥K, but declarer returns the ♥T to pin South's 9 to keep South from getting the spades. North has ♥7 and H6 left, dummy has ♥8 and ♥5, so the defenders get the setting trick at trick 13, holding declarer to 7 tricks.

There were a number of places either side could have controlled or broken the communications on the hand (declarer had a final chance when the ♦K was played - throw the ♦Q under it!), but the hand emphasises the importance of holding access to both hands open. If declarer is cut off from one of the two hands he controls, he truly is playing the game 'cut-throat', two against one.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

Repeat on Demand - The SBC Encore! Mid-Week Swiss Pairs



A lot of players really like the idea of a weekday congress and asked us to run it again. If you didn't manage to join our last time, here comes the opportunity!

The [SBC Encore! Mid-Week Swiss Pairs](#) is a one-day congress to be held on Wednesday 29th September, 10am start. We will play six 8 boards round with a lunch break in the middle.

RED masterpoints awarded. BB\$12 per player. Winners (of 3 categories) will receive FREE entry to the NSWBA Online Teams of Three, details will be announced very soon!

[Enter in advance](#) required on the NSWBA website. There will definitely be 3 separate fields for Novice, Restricted and Open players. Please nominate the field you would like to compete in.

The Sydney Bridge Centre online sessions on BBO

Our clubroom on Goulburn Street is temporary closed under the current restriction. We are running regular club session online on BBO for the moment and will resume our F2F sessions once we can. Please keep an eye on our [website](#) for the latest announcement.

For BBO sessions:

All are welcome. No need to book. Please find us on BBO / Featured Areas / Virtual Clubs / ABF-Australia. Tournament title "Sydney Bridge Centre & Friends". Tournament will open only 2 hours before the game starts.

24 boards, BB\$4 per person per game.