



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)!

Squeeze Out More Tricks

#89393 BBO – Tuesday Night 19th October 2021

D		N		W		N		E		S	
1		♠ 2 ♥ 1083 ♦ KQ42 ♣ AKQ96		1♣ P 1♠ 2♦ 2NT 3♦ 3♥ P 3NT P P P							
W				E							
♠ QJ53 ♥ QJ ♦ AJ1063 ♣ 32				♠ 1086 ♥ A76 ♦ 9875 ♣ J104							
		S									
		♠ AK974 ♥ K9542 ♦ ♣ 875								3NT N NS: 0 EW: 0	

The main difference in playing Pairs bridge rather than IMPs or rubber bridge is that every extra trick is nearly as important as the trick that makes or breaks the contract. This is why in Pairs you have to set yourself a new target every time something goes right, while making sure you don't risk the number of tricks you already have. Right from Board 1 of the Sydney Bridge Centre & Friends competition on Tuesday Night, 19 October, we had an excellent example of how this type of declarer thinking has to happen.

Most of the field found their way to 3N on these hands, though there were two who found the 5-3 heart fit and played in 4♥. Finding a fit is a bit of a poisoned chalice when declarer holds 'soft' values in the opponents' suit, but

the two who did get to 4♥ did so with artificial sequences that prevented West bidding diamonds at any safe level. There were also a couple of people playing 'safely' in clubs for a miserable matchpoint score: it does not pay in Pairs to play in the minors unless all alternatives are exhausted.

In sequences where North played the hand in 3N after a diamond bid by West, a diamond was led. When the lead denies an honour, West has the opportunity to give up on the suit for only one diamond trick to the declarer by playing small, as declarer is unable to generate the second diamond, having no card to finesse with. However only a fill-in robot found that play, and in practice the ♠A was taken and the declarers found themselves with the contract making if the clubs broke reasonably: 5 clubs, 2 diamonds, 2 spades. Some declarers cashed the club winners then eventually led a heart, but could not bring themselves to risk going off by playing the ♥K which may have seen 4 hearts cashed. West won with ♥J or ♥Q and knocked out the diamond stopper so these declarers were obliged to cash their 9 tricks. If they had known that declarer had no way of getting to hand to score the other diamond, they might have found a spade lead which would have put the declarers in grave difficulties.

The better way to play the hand is to make sure dummy's hearts are not discarded, so that the 9 provides a 4th-round stopper if ♥K loses to ♥A. Declarer wins the second diamond with ♦Q (not the normal play, as it reveals the ♦K, but here declarer might obtain some benefit if another suit is opened, so it helps to baldly display the second diamond stopper). He then plays two rounds of clubs. Now that the 3-2 club break is proven, it is not necessary to immediately cash the other three tricks in the suit, and thus the third club winner can be preserved as an entry to make sure the diamond stopper can be cashed. That means a heart can safely be led to the ♥K, as the opponents will only be able to cash a maximum of three hearts if the Ace takes the King. These potential three combined with the initial ♦A give only four to the defenders, so declarer still has his 9 tricks ... and that means finessing the ♥K is a free 50% shot at 10 tricks, without risk of losing the original 9. Those who had discarded 2 hearts from dummy on diamonds and clubs did not have that protection.

In practice, the KH won, and also dropped the ♥J. Now declarer has 10 tricks, but that ♥J allows another heart to be played safely as the opponents can only cash two heart winners. Why concede this trick, given that declarer has 10

winners, and it will not be possible to make a heart trick without already conceding three tricks? The answer is a squeeze.

As I have mentioned before, squeeze play is a hugely valuable technique to learn, as it comes up so often in Pairs play. Here the opponents win ♥Q, and miss their second-last chance to hold declarer to 10 by leading a spade to attack the 'extended menace' of the spade winners combined with the third spade. The more natural return of a diamond was made, declarer winning and cashing the club winners.

Now the reason for conceding the heart trick becomes apparent. This is called 'rectifying the count': giving up tricks to the opposition so that the number of tricks remaining is the number of winners you have, plus 1. This makes the position 'tight' so that the defenders have no free cards to discard. The fourth club forces the defenders down to 4 cards. East could have saved the day by giving up on his spades and holding ♦8 and ♥A, but the ♦8 seemed useless so he threw it, coming down to ♥A and three spades. Dummy held AK9 in spades and H9. Declarer had the motley collection of ♠2, ♥8, ♦4, and ♣6. West held 3 spades and the master ♦T. On the play of the last club, East had to keep AH so was obliged to come down to only 2 spades. ♥9 was thrown from dummy, and West had two fatal options: part with the spade stopper or ♦T. He threw ♦T, but declarer had been counting and cashed ♦4 before the two spades. 11 tricks earned all the matchpoints.

There's two defensive lessons here for squeezes. Firstly, if there is an 'extended menace' - a suit with a losing card attached to one or more winners - try to eliminate the cards in the shorter hand that connect to it. The suit is much less dangerous as a simple menace like the S9. Secondly, when three suits are in a squeeze, one defender should the extended menace, and the other guard the two single menaces. Here if East had held ♦8 and ♥A, West could have parted with ♦T and kept the spades, and the slam would not have worked. However these things are easier to work out once the squeeze is apparent, and that is why declarer held onto the clubs until the count was rectified.

I highly recommend reading up on some of the basics of squeeze play, as even some small knowledge produces great advantages.

Martin Clear (SBC Tuesday Night host)

Let's have some Fun – F2F Melbourne Cup Day



Considering the 'extraordinary' vaccination rate continues to hit its target and the case number continues to go down, we are going to follow the SBC tradition to run the **F2F Melbourne Cup Luncheon** on Tuesday 2nd November 2021!

Bridge AND a delicious lunch. **RED masterpoints awarded**. Lot of spot prizes. Perfect occasion to catch up with your friends and buddies at the bridge table on a fun day.

\$50 for members / \$55 for visitors. [Booking essential](#) for catering and board dealing purpose.

We have REOPENED for Face-to-Face bridge with ONLINE games continue on BBO

For Face-to-Face sessions:

Welcome back! Our clubroom on Goulburn Street has opened from Monday 18th October 2021. We will start with 6 regular sessions on the first week: Monday – Thursday morning, 10am – 1.15pm and Tuesday night 7.15pm – 10.00pm. There will be a separate field for Supervised players on Wednesday morning.

For BBO sessions:

We will continue to run the 5 regular club session online on BBO. Please check our [session timetable](#) here.

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.