

The Real Deal

by Larry Cohen



Larry Cohen, a many-time National champion, is a popular writer and lecturer, living in Boca Raton, Florida. Information on Larry's upcoming activities can be found by visiting www.larryco.com.

One of Larry's favorite teaching methods is to analyze random deals. He feels that any time you deal out a deck of cards, there are numerous lessons that can be learned.

This "Real Deal" was dealt by a longtime friend of mine, **Sabine Auken**. Not only is she one of my favorite people in the bridge world, she's also one of the best players, with an incredible record to match.

I wasn't there in person when the cards were dealt, but this is quite a deal to work with. I could not have asked for a more interesting layout. You'll soon see wherein lies the beauty.

North is the dealer and would surely open 1♦. The hand is too strong for a preemptive opening bid. What should South respond?

With a weak hand, it would be right to respond 1♥, ignoring the clubs for the time being. However, with 12 high-card points plus some distributional values, South is strong

enough to bid the suits in the 'natural' order. The clubs are longer, so South begins with 2♣, planning on mentioning the hearts later in the auction.

North has an easy rebid of 2♦, enabling South to bid 2♥. Should North show support for hearts?

No. Don't raise partner's second suit with only three-card support. North also can't bid notrump without a stopper in spades, the

THE PLAY IN 3NT


East will win the first trick with the ♠A and return the suit—the ♠4, top of the remaining doubleton. If South plays low, West will win the ♠Q and lead a third round of spades, driving out declarer's ♠K.

Declarer has a spade trick, the ♥A, the ♣A, and six winning diamond tricks in the dummy. Unfortunately, declarer has no entry to the dummy. How frustrating! Declarer has to lead hearts and clubs from the South hand, and the defenders will now get enough tricks to defeat 3NT. Winning the ♠K at trick two would not have left South in any better position.

By now, astute readers may have realized the beauty I was referring to at the beginning of this article. In fact, declarer *can* get to those beautiful diamonds in the dummy. How?

At trick one, when East wins the ♠A, **South can counter by dumping the ♠K underneath the ♠A!** Now South is left with the ♠6-5 and dummy the ♠J-10. The defense can take a trick with the ♠Q, but dummy can be reached on the third round of

spades. Declarer gets a spade trick, six diamond tricks, and two aces for an easy nine tricks.

Without any warning bells, would you have figured out to drop your ♠K under East's ♠A on the first trick? Next time I see Sabine, I'll have to ask her to fess up—and find out if she really dealt this one with her own two hands! 

THE REAL DEAL

DEAL: 7

DLR: N

VUL: NONE

NORTH

♠ J 10 9
♥ 4 3 2
♦ A K Q J 10 9
♣ Q

1♦ 2♦ 3♦ Pass

WEST

♠ Q 8 7 2
♥ K 6 5
♦ 8 7 5
♣ K 8 6

Pass Pass Pass

N
W E
S

EAST

♠ A 4 3
♥ Q 8 7
♦ 6 4 3 2
♣ J 7 5

Pass Pass Pass Pass

SOUTH

♠ K 6 5
♥ A J 10 9
♦ —
♣ A 10 9 4 3 2

2♣ 2♥ 3NT

unbid suit. So North would probably bid the diamonds for a third time.

By now, South is tired of hearing about diamonds, and with everything else under control, will bid 3NT and play there.

THE OPENING LEAD AGAINST 3NT

For two reasons West would lead the ♠2: "fourth from your longest and strongest," and it is the unbid suit.



Sabine Auken

This deal comes from **Sabine Auken**. Sabine was born in Germany, but now resides in Denmark. She is a World Master, and has twice won the Venice Cup. With her regular partner, Daniela Von Arnim, she often competes in North American events, where she has won numerous titles.

In 2006, Sabine wrote a book about her team's dramatic comeback to win the 2001 Venice Cup, *I LOVE THIS GAME*. She has many hobbies, including golf, skiing, running, swimming, and tennis. However, she considers her greatest achievement to be her two sons, Maximillian and Jens Christian.

"My ambition in life is to always be able to be there for my friends when they need me, and to teach my children respect for other people's feelings, needs, and their mere existence."

About the game Sabine says, "The most fascinating aspect of bridge for me on the social side is that it brings together people of different races, ages, sex, religious, and political beliefs to compete with and against one another on equal terms...and nobody seems to have any problem with it at all. Bridge is the one sport I know where women are able to compete with and against men on an equal level."

Sabine is currently working on an exciting new bridge product centered around the BRIDGE SPINNER, which can deal out preset hands. You can learn more about this venture by visiting www.bridge4people.com.

2010- 2011 Bridge Cruises

Featuring Larry Cohen

Best-Selling Author and
26-Time National Champion



To participate in the following bridge programs, bookings must be made through

Alice Travel

800-229-2542 • info@alicetravel.com

2010 Sectional at Sea

Win Silver Points!

Aboard Royal Caribbean's
Mariner of the Seas

Mexico from Los Angeles

7 nights, October 31 - November 7, 2010



ACBL Regional at Sea

Win Gold Points!

Aboard Royal Caribbean's
Liberty of the Seas

Round Trip from Miami

7 nights, December 12-19, 2010



Holiday Caribbean Cruise

Aboard Celebrity's new Equinox

Round Trip from Ft Lauderdale

11 Nights, Departs December 27, 2010

To participate in the following bridge programs, bookings must be made through

Go Away Travel

800-721-5927 • 954-349-2800

Eastern Caribbean Cruise

Aboard the luxury
Regent Seven Seas Navigator

Round Trip from Ft Lauderdale

10 nights, March 28 - April 8, 2011



Middle East/Mediterranean & Transatlantic Cruises

Aboard the luxury
Regent Seven Seas Voyager

Safaga, Egypt to Barcelona

16 nights, November 12-28, 2011

Barcelona to Ft Lauderdale

14 nights, November 28 - Dec. 12, 2011