

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.

From **Reza Khatib** we got a very exciting deal, with many good lesson points. Let's start with what will be a long auction.

South opens 1♥—always the higher-ranking suit when 5-5—and North responds 2♣. We will assume that 2♣ is not only natural, but game forcing—the modern way. (Whenever I teach Two-Over-

One Game Forcing, I urge people to read Audrey Grant's book on the topic—I reviewed it for a major bridge publication and gave an A+ rating.)

After North's 2♣, South introduces the second suit with a bid of 2♦. North now supports the hearts with a 2♥ bid. This support is never given with a two-card preference. A two-over-one response followed by a raise of opener's major guarantees at least three.

So, the auction has started very economically via: 1♥-2♣-2♦-2♥.

Now what? I recommend that South repeats the diamonds. This typically shows 5-5 or longer in the two suits. Bids below three-of-the-major are not "control-bidding" for slam—we will talk more about that soon. For now, North-South's job is only to describe their distribution.

A two-over-one response followed by a raise of opener's major guarantees at least three-card support.

Remember, that the partnership is forced to game. So, by bidding 3♠, North shows interest in going beyond game and also a control in spades. A "control" means that the opponents won't take the first two tricks in that suit. Accordingly, it shows either the ace or king, or a singleton or void. A bid such as 3♠ is therefore called a "control bid."

After North's 3♠ (whew—are you still with me?), South should certainly cooperate in a slam investigation. South can show a club control, the singleton, by bidding 4♣. North can then show a diamond control, the ♦K, by bidding 4♦. North-South are really getting their money's worth with this auction!

After all these control bids, one player will eventually take charge and use Blackwood. Even though the partnership has all the aces, I don't think a grand slam will be reached. North-South will likely stop in a small slam contract of 6♥.

THE OPENING LEAD

West has no clear cut suit to lead after all this bidding, and will probably choose the

relatively safe lead of a trump, to avoid giving declarer any help.

THE PLAY IN 6♥

What should South's plan be in the 6♥ slam?

As usual in a trump contract, I like to go through declarer's hand suit-by-suit and figure out what can be done with any losers. In spades, declarer has ♠A-3, but the ♠3 is handled by dummy's ♠K. No problems there, nor in the trump suit. In clubs, declarer's singleton is handled by dummy's ♣A.

THE REAL DEAL

DEAL: 12
DLR: SOUTH
VUL: NONE

	NORTH													
	♠ K 10 4													
	♥ K 10 7													
	♦ K 4													
	♣ A 9 6 5 4													
	<table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>2♣</td><td>2♥</td><td>3♠</td><td>4♦</td><td>5♦</td><td>Pass</td> </tr> </table>	2♣	2♥	3♠	4♦	5♦	Pass							
2♣	2♥	3♠	4♦	5♦	Pass									
WEST	<table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> </tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	EAST								
N	E													
W	S													
♠ J 9 8 6 2		♠ Q 7 5												
♥ 6 4		♥ 9 5 3												
♦ 3 2		♦ Q J 10 5												
♣ K 10 7 3		♣ Q J 8												
<table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td> </tr> </table>	P	P	P	P	P	P		<table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td> </tr> </table>	P	P	P	P	P	P
P	P	P	P	P	P									
P	P	P	P	P	P									
	SOUTH													
	♠ A 3													
	♥ A Q J 8 2													
	♦ A 9 8 7 6													
	♣ 2													
	<table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>1♥</td><td>2♦</td><td>3♦</td><td>4♣</td><td>4NT</td><td>6♥</td> </tr> </table>	1♥	2♦	3♦	4♣	4NT	6♥							
1♥	2♦	3♦	4♣	4NT	6♥									

After South's 3♦, North would sign off in 4♥ with a dead minimum and no slam interest. Although North has a high-card point minimum for the 2♣ response, North has a nice hand for slam, with excellent controls. North should be in no hurry to end the discussion with a sign-off bid.

North can bid time with 3♥, or bid 3♠. What would 3♠ mean? Once the pair goes above three-of-the-major, new-suit bids should show slam interest. Without slam interest, North would simply bid 4♥.

That leaves us with the key suit, diamonds. What will declarer do with the little diamonds? Trump them in dummy, of course

Now, my second part of any suit-contract plan: Should declarer start out by drawing trump? Of course not. Declarer needs trumps in dummy to ruff diamond losers. So, declarer plays a low heart from dummy on the trump lead—saving the higher ones to ruff diamonds. East's ♥9 goes to declarer's ♥J.

What should declarer do at trick two? Start the diamonds. Don't worry about an opponent ruffing. If diamonds split 5-1, it just isn't your day—you aren't likely to make your slam no matter what you do. Make sure to play diamonds so that you end up in hand—so play the ♦K and then back to the ♦A. That way you can play a third diamond. West shows out, but you can trump in dummy. And now?

Why not continue with a good thing? Play the ♣A and ruff a club to get back to your hand. Then ruff another diamond with dummy's last trump. Now, you can come back to your ♠A to draw trump.

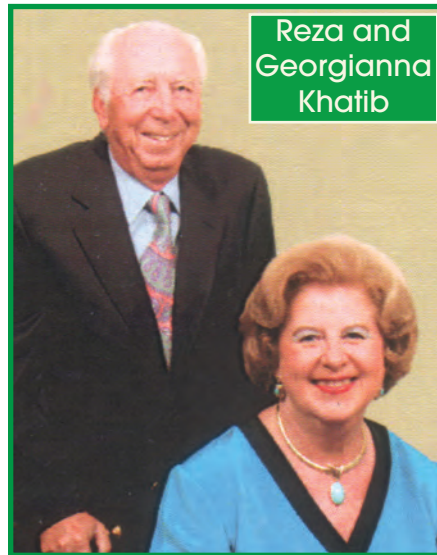
Your fifth diamond has now been established as a winner, so you have made an overtrick. For a contract of 6♥, 'professionally' bid and played, you can expect a very good result.

The Real Deal in this issue came from **Reza Khatib** of Palm City, Florida.

On Saturday, March 5, of this year, as planned, there was an Open House for the Khatib Bridge and Education Center at 500 Palm Beach Road, Florida. There was an enthusiastic response from the bridge players. They were all excited about their future full-time bridge club in what was formerly a church. As soon as members of the church move to their larger premises, Reza and Georgianna Khatib will begin renovations. They hope to open the new club around Labor Day.

The Khatibs, throughout their very long and distinguished careers, have

devoted themselves to improving the well-being of others. Born in Iran, Reza came to the United States where he established a private medical practice, and for 25 years was chief of neurosurgery at Brooklyn Hospital. In 1988, he was invited to establish the Catholic Medical Center's Neurological Center in Queens, New York.



In 2004, Dr. Khatib founded a clinic for the poor in his hometown of Mashad. It also aids pilgrims requiring medical care. The clinic has a full medical staff and provides, among other services, laboratory tests, dental care, and medication for the indigent patients.

Georgianna Khatib started her career at the School for the Deaf in Manhattan, teaching students with language and hearing impairments, and eventually becoming assistant principal. Evenings and weekends, she helped manage Reza's private practice as executive secretary of the professional corporation they established and ran until their retirement several years ago.

The Khatibs met and married during his residency. Although Georgianna is a practicing Catholic and Reza a Muslim, they have always respected each other's religious beliefs. Together, they have endowed the Reza and Georgianna Chair in Comparative Religion at St. Joseph's College in New York. It is an important intellectual, cultural, and theological resource for the entire College community. ♦

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