

START WINNING

Chapter 22: Simple Stories: Addendum and Epilogue

I hope you have enjoyed reading the preceding Simple Stories from some 15 or more years ago. They are stories fairly accurately depicting the adventures of the players I taught and mentored through their first few years at the club. Some of the play, I admit, as described was not quite as good as described but they were real deals and real results, albeit possibly arrived through different avenues.

The reader will have got an insight into a number of different systems by following our players, whose names have been changed to protect the innocent, as they say in the TV dramas. In my next book, "Keep Winning" I will introduce some new ways to bid and play, but in the meantime, there are some things I should point out in respect of the preceding chapters of Simple Stories: they are a reproduction of what was written at the time; the rules of bridge have changed since then. For instance, CUE BIDS are no longer alertable. Also, a 1NT or 1C opening bid MUST be announced by the partner of the opener immediately it is made, by stating the strength (e.g. "12-14" in the case of 1NT, or "4+ cards" in the case of a 1C opening).

Many new systems and treatments have sprung up, e.g. "Hamilton" after an opposing 1NT, Roman Key Card Blackwood, etc. Some of the banter in discussions with opponents may also be frowned upon these days, and to be honest, much of this was somewhat embellished to make the stories a bit more interesting and readable as well as instructive. The next ones, in "Keep Winning", will take on a more modern and up to date form, as modern and up to date as an old fart can make it.