

# START WINNING

## Chapter 10: Simple Stories

The “Simple Stories” from some time ago can be seen on this web site under “Vil's Books”. I hope that by reading them, you will have a basic idea of how to “Start Winning”. There are some inaccuracies and typos in those stories, so I will now mention things which the reader should take note of when reading both “Post Mortem” and “One Night Stand”. Once the reader has read those stories we will resume our quest to “Start Winning” and return to present day play in the lower to middle grades of club play.

### **Post Mortem:**

Some additional notes:

#### Part 1

Board 3. Some very good instruction on both defence and declarer play. Visualise the whole hand and plan your play or defence, whichever side of the fence you happen to be. If declarer leads the DQ North must give partner a COUNT by playing the EIGHT (high-low to show an EVEN number of cards) and then South must not allow entry for the diamonds. Thinking before playing by declarer solves all problems: with Axx opposite QJx there are always TWO tricks and never more, so you can play the ace immediately and keep the QJ, which guarantees an entry via the QJ. A simple play often forgotten, or ignored!

Board 13. An example of the sort of bad defence that you can get. Bidding a slam on the NS hands is definitely NOT recommended.

Board 21. South's defence of a) leading the DA and then analysing the situation and switching to the HK you would see only in the highest levels of the game.

#### Part 2

Board 11. This mentions “TNT” which is my simple version of the theory of total tricks, something that I may talk about later. Takeout doubles and declarer play are also of interest here.

Board 23. Perhaps an extreme example of the benefits of overcalling. If West opens 1D and North overcalls 1H, East will end up in 3NT and if South leads the singleton heart, this will help the defence. I don't always lead singletons in partner's overcalled suit (against No Trump contracts) but if I don't I stand to always lose the post mortem! Also, a good example of 'cover an honour with an honour': when declarer leads the C10, North must cover, you'll see why.

### Part 3

Board 12. Interesting declarer play.

Board 16. Few players these days are even aware of the old “SOS” redouble, and not many have ever used it, but it is something worth considering. Many pairs use a similar thing when they are doubled in 1NT but then again, few of our lower grade players know how, and when, to double a 1NT opening anyway. If you're going to confuse partner with such ideas, forget it!

### Part 4

Board 10. Two interesting conventions mentioned here. I am personally a great fan of BARON after a 2NT opening by partner, rather than Stayman. Baron also fits in perfectly with transfers if you play them. Also, “MUD” leads are mentioned. Personally I dislike MUD leads and prefer to lead the TOP card of three small, but that is a matter of choice I think.

Board 12. There is a convoluted series of plays covered, but it does show just what can happen at times.

Board 16. IMPORTANT NOTE: The South hand has a missing card, the KING OF SPADES, otherwise all the commentary will be meaningless and you will wonder why South responded 2NT when North opened 2C!