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Preface

This is a personal story, not a legal document. It has been written from the standpoint of innocence, because Boris Schapiro and I were innocent. But I have not set out to prove a case or to play down the evidence that was given against us. Whatever the verdict of the Inquiry, no reader will mistake the force with which the case was presented.

I say 'whatever the verdict', because one quality this book must necessarily possess is suspense. I began to write it soon after the Inquiry started, and from then on the narrative has kept pace with the 'trial'. This preface was written long before its close.

Non-players will see that the technical evidence, apart from a few hands that are an integral part of the story, is reserved for an Appendix. There I assume that the reader has some knowledge of the tournament game.

No doubt the British Bridge League, which arranged for the Inquiry, will express the thanks of all players to the members of the court who served such an unexpectedly long stint. As for Boris and myself, how could we ever have imagined that we would receive such wonderful support from Mr Tim Holland and the directors of Crockford's., or that we would be defended by so fine an advocate as Mr Leonard Caplan, QC? Even so, we could not have carried on throughout this long year without the encouragement and goodwill of our expert witnesses and of a host of friends, both known and unknown.

My secretary, Marjorie Hiron, made a number of good suggestions for the book and surprisingly injected a certain amount of 'acid'; as though it were needed.

Terence Reese