



Lesson 32 Teaching Note's

Return to Stayman

Aims

- To revise the use of Stayman with invitational and game-going hands
- To introduce the idea of using Stayman with weak hands
- To emphasise that Stayman *asks* for 4-card majors, whereas transfers *tell* about 5-card majors

Content

- 1 Revise Stayman as a means of finding the 4-4 major fit after opening bids of 1NT and 2NT.
Remind the class that Stayman *asks* whether partner has a 4-card major *because you have one* yourself and the 4-4 major fit may be the best contract.
With a 5-card major you should *tell* partner via a transfer so he can choose the 5-3 fit if it exists.
We use Stayman *only* when we have **at least** one major with **precisely** 4 cards.

- 2 Introduce Stayman auctions with weak hands: a rare form of Stayman allowing you to stop at the 2-level in the best partscore.
Eg 1NT-2♣ with 5-4 in ♥+♠.
If partner responds in a major you plan to pass. If he responds 2♦ bid your 5-card major
This is the only time we use Stayman in a hand with a 5-card major: as a weak takeout.
With game-invitational values or more we aim to bid both suits, transfer into the longer, then bid the other one.
Eg 1NT-2♣ with 4-4-4-1 or 4-4-5-0 in ♥+♠+♦.
You plan to pass whatever partner bids, hoping this will be a better contract than 1NT.

Note how important it is ***to be prepared for any response***.
You cannot use Stayman with a weak hand unless you hold at least 3-cards in each major and are prepared to pass ***whatever partner bids***.

- 3 Emphasise that with a weak 1-suited hand you should use a transfer to play in the long suit.
We use only use weak Stayman when we have 2 or 3 possible places to play.