

We better also mention that once in a blue moon ( *you saw me standing alone etc etc*), Stayman is used to make a weakish takeout into a six ( yes 6) card club suit

e.g 1NT -----?

876	Bid 2C which will be assumed by your partner
4	to be a Stayman entreaty. Your subsequent
KJ9	bidding will soon disabuse them of that little
AJ8765	notion . ( see next example )

e.g 1NT -----2C

2H----- 3C

?

876	Your 3C continuation shows a weak(ish) club
4	suit and opener will pass. Remember that the
KJ9	Stayman bidder ALWAYS bids NTS or a MAJOR
AJ8765	with the usual 2C hands so it is clear you have clubs.

[ This 2C followed by 3C is standard and fine but personally I can imagine that pass of 1NT would be equally effective. Then partner would only have to make 7 tricks and not 9 ... Be that as it may it is up to you really whether or not to bid 2C on such hands . I have said (twice now) that the club suit should be weakish. That was deliberate. Don't go bidding it on very very weak hands e.g with 0--- 5 pts. I'll tell you why one day too.

Probably you knew all that or wouldn't have been hard pressed to work it out anyway .

If the opponents interfere ( overcall) though you really will have to know what you are doing.

Say the bidding starts :-----

N	E	S	W
1NT	P	2C	2S !
?			
A54			
KJ32			
AJ43			
J4			

you would have of course replied 2H to the 2C bid. And whichever hand type partner held, things would be straightforward.

So are you going to bid 3H now ? ( a partner of mine recently bid 2NT - why she should have thought that that showed this hand I don't know ). BUT - 3H ? or.... ?

The problem is that Stayman as we have seen is bid on 3 types of hand :-

i)strongish with a 4 card major ii) weakish with two majors (5-4) iii) weakish with clubs

Now perhaps it strikes you as odd but you should now PASS in such auctions.

Things wont necessarily end here ( partner still has a bid ) BUT they know what they have better than you do ! Pass is YOUR call. When the bidding returns to partner I can imagine they might bid a)pass b) 3C c) 2NT d) 3NT e)Dble f) even 3Sp, a bid of the opp's suit.

*if only there was space we could discuss that last call of 3Sp. Another page perhaps.*

