

Lesson 4 Stayman and more on playing the cards.

The weak NT (12-14) points discussed in lesson 3 has many advantages and 1 disadvantage. The partnership may play in NT when it has 8 hearts or spades. (9 tricks in NT and 10 tricks in H or S need 25 points but the major suit contract in preferable. To solve this problem we use the STAYMAN convention. A conventional bid is one where the bid does not relate to the suit mentioned.

A responder holding a 4 card major and sufficient strength to bid 2NT bids 2C. The opening bidder announces this as STAYMAN.

If the opening bidder holds a 4 card major they bid it at the 2 level. If they hold both H and S they bid H. If they do not hold a 4 card major they bid 2D.

The 2C bid does not signify C and the 2D bid does not signify D both bids are CONVENTIONAL

The responder now knows whether the partnership should play in NT or a major suit. The responder bids 3 or 4 of the major if a fit has been found and 2 or 3 NT if there is no fit. The 3 H/S and the 2NT bid should be made on 11 or 12 points. The 4H/S or 3NT bid should be made on 13 points +

Remember in H or S to add on points for shape.

1. for a void 3 for a singleton 1 for a doubleton and 1 for every trump over 4 held

**Playing in NT contracts**

**Lead towards your high cards**

**Holding 3 4 5 opposite 7 K Q lead the 3 towards the KQ**

**Holding 2 3 4 K opposite 5 6 Q J lead the 2 towards the QJ**

**(Lead towards the hand with the most high cards.)**

**Holding 2 K opposite 5 6 Q J lead the 5 towards the K**

**( Lead towards the short suit).**

**If your opponents lead a suit in which you are short but hold the A do not play the A on the first trick. Add up the number of cards you hold in the suit between both hands and take the total from 7.**

**If you have 3 and dummy has 2 that equals 5. 5 from 7 is 2.**

**Play your A on the 2nd round.**

**If you have 3 and dummy has 1 that equals 4 4 from7 is 3.**

**Play your A on the 3rd round**