

And when partner opens 1NT are there times when you do not need at least 8 points to bid Stayman? Yes, as DonaRae Rutherford demonstrated in this had last Friday.

S 10 4 3
H K Q 2
D J 4
C K 10 8 6 4

S A K J 8	S Q 9 6 5
H A 10 7	H 8 6 4 3
D Q 10 6 5	D K 9 7 3
C Q 5	C J

S 7 2
H J 9 5
D A 8 2
C A 9 7 3 2

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2C	Pass
2S	Pass	Pass	Pass

After Edmun Rutherford's 1NT, DonaRae had exactly the right distribution to try Stayman with a weak hand, and it worked very well. 2S works fine, while if she passes the 1NT, the opponents get 5 clubs, 2 hearts and 1 diamond, limiting 1NT to only 5 tricks and a minus 200 score.

 Two weeks ago we discussed what to do with this hand after RHO opens 1C: 1D or double?:

S A 5 4 **H** K J 4 **D** A Q 6 5 4 **C** 4 3

I sent it to my poll group and got exactly an even split: 2 for 1D; 2 for Double; and 1 "flip a coin."

If we change the hand slightly to:

S A 6 5 4 **H** K J 4 **D** A Q 5 4 **C** 4 3

Then we were unanimous for the double.