

Gloucester BC – Stayman 5 Minutes

- A ‘conventional’ bid – decide if your partnership are using Stayman (or just weak takeouts etc). Has to be announced by partner.
- Before using Stayman, check that you can cope with any response from partner and agree usage with partner.
- Purpose is to try to find a 4-4 fit in a major as a better contract than NT.
- Asks ‘Have you a 4-card major?’, Guarantees to hold at least one 4 card major unless next bid is 3♣.
- Responses ‘2♦ -No 4-card major’, ‘2♥ – 4 heart cards and possibly also 4 spade cards’, ‘2♠ – 4 spade cards and not 4 heart cards’.
- Normal Use - Response to 1NT / 2NT opening, or a 2NT rebid after an artificial 2♣ (or 2♦) opening.
- Other Uses - Response to partner’s 1NT overcall, Response to opener’s NT rebid.
- Can also be used (subject to partnership agreement) for:
 - weak hands with at least 5-4 in the majors (bid the 5 card major if partner responds 2♦),
 - weak hands with long diamonds and support for both majors (pass any response from partner),
 - weak hands with at least 6 clubs (bid 2♣ then bid 3♣)
- Partner should reflect on why partner has used Stayman and bid accordingly e.g. 1NT-2♣-2♥-3NT implies responder does not have 4 heart cards but does have 4 spade cards and opener should convert to 4♠ if holding 4 spade cards.
- Note – the practice hands include some where using Stayman would NOT be appropriate.