**Olicana Bridge Teaser No 32**

The following is reproduced by kind permission of Andrew Robson.

Please see the Olicana Website for a link to Andrew’s excellent Bridgecasts.

Three possible hands are given for east but only one is consistent with their bidding shown.

Which one?

How would the others hands have bid?

Neither side is vulnerable

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **32** | **W** | **N** | **E** | **S** |
|  | 1NT | pass | 2♣ |  |

\* Stayman - asking for 4-card majors

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **(a)** |  | **(b)** |  | **(c)** |
| ♠ A K 9 5 2 |  | ♠ K J 9 6 2 |  | ♠ J 2 |
| ♥ J 9 8 2 |  | ♥ A K 7 3 2 |  | ♥ J 4 |
| ♦ A J 2 |  | ♦ K 2 |  | ♦ Q 4 3 2 |
| ♣ 2 |  | ♣ 8 |  | ♣ A Q 7 3 2 |

(a) is correct.

The commonest use of Stayman is when you have a game-going hand (that's 11+ points facing a 12-14 1NT) together with a precisely 4-card major.

Hand (a) fits the bill.

Bidding 2 ♣ is the way to find a 4-4 heart fit.

If partner replies 2 ♥/♠, you'll raise to game.

If she replies 2♦, you will bid 3 ♠ to show 5 spades and, by inference, 4 hearts.

With 5-4 in the majors I recommend using Stayman not Transfers.

Hand (b) is a hand to use Transfers - not Stayman because you don't have an exactly 4-card major.

Bid 2♥ (transfer to spades) then follow with 3♥.

Because you use Stayman with 5-4, this should show 5♠ - 5♥ (forcing to game).

Hand (c), is a pass of 1NT.

Don't think to rescue into clubs (ending at the three-level) with this semi-balanced hand.