

Fifth Chair



Puppet Stayman

Puppet Stayman is an asking bid, made over 2C opener - bid - 2N by opener, or direct 2NT opener.

One plays puppet stayman so that you can show the points in a hand, and still get to the game or slam level in the correct contract if you, the 2NT opener might have either a 5 card major, or a four card major.

Responder bids 3c - the asking bid. With a 5 card major, the 2n bidder bids it. If he has a 4 card major, but not a 5, he bids 3d. With NO 5 or 4 card major he bids 3NT.

Responder, upon hearing 3d bids the major he does NOT have: if he has 4 spades, he bids 3h, and vice versa. Then opener bids either the correct major, at the 4 level, or 3nt, without that major.

If responder has two 4 card majors, he bids 4c, showing an interest in slam in nt bidders major; or he bids 4d with only game interest and opening 2C or 2nt bidder places the contract in game in his major.