

#### **INTERMEDIATE LESSON 8: STUDENT NOTES**

# Michaels Cue Bids & Unusual 2NT Overcall

**Michaels Cue Bid** is used to show a two suiter hand (at least 5/5)

- Cue of a major suit shows the other major and a minor
   eg (1♥) 2♥ = 5+ spades and 5+ of a minor
- Cue of a minor suit shows both majors
   eg (1 ◆) 2 ◆ = 5+ spades and 5+ hearts
- Cue of the opening suit bid after the opposition opened and responded.
   This shows the two unbid suits
   eq (1♣) P (1♥) 2♣ = 5+ spades and 5+ diamonds

**Unusual 2NT overcall** always shows the two lowest unbid suits (at least 5/5)

eg 
$$(1 \spadesuit)$$
 – 2NT = 5+/5+ in the minors  $(1 \spadesuit)$  – 2NT = 5+ clubs and 5+ hearts

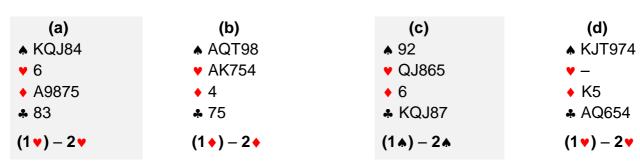
With spades and the other minor you must bid your spade suit over a minor suit opening

The strength of a Michaels bid or 2NT overcall requires partnership agreement. It usually shows 10+ HCP, with points in your long suits. You may decide to use Michaels

It usually shows 10+ HCP, with points in your long suits. You may decide to use Michaels with a weaker hand if you are not vulnerable.

[An alternative is to play these bids as either weak (5-10) or strong (15+). Therefore with 11-14 you would overcall your higher ranked suit and bid again if appropriate]

## Example hands:





(e) **♠** 6 **y** 87 ◆ AJT76 ♣ KQ875 (1 - 2NT)

(f) ♠ A **9** 65 AQJT8 ♣ KQJ98 (1♥) – 2NT

(g) **♦** 873 KQT76 ♣ AKQ73 (1 ♦ ) – 2NT

**♦** T8 AK976 **4** 3 ♣ KQ875 **(1♣)** − **1**♥

(h)

### Responses to Michaels Cue Bid after a major suit opening:

Bid the known suit at the lowest level

• Bid the lower of the other two suits at any level = pass or correct (weak if lowest level)

2NT forcing enquiry

Game in known suit

= to play (may only have a doubleton)

= game try or better asking for the other suit

= to make or pre-emptive

(i) ♠ KQ76 **9**5 AT76 ♣ Q65  $(1 \lor) - 2 \lor - (P) - 3 \land$ 

3♠ is inviting to game

(j) **♦** J864 **y** 73

♦ K942 ♣ QJ5

(1 +) - 2 + - (P) - 3 +

want to play a minor

(k)

♠ QJ5

♥ A654 KT64

**\*** 76

 $(1 \lor) - 2 \lor - (P) - 2NT$ 

If partner bids 3\* you bid 3♠ but if they bid 3 ♦ you bid 4 ♠

### Subsequent auction:

- After a minimum bid by partner, the Michaels bidder can only bid further if they have a strong or very distributional hand.
- After a pass or correct bid, they either pass or show the other suit they have, unless the opener bids again.
- After 2NT enquiry the Michaels bidder shows both their strength as well as their other suit - jump with a strong hand.

**(I) ▲** 64 AQJ75 ♦ KQT94 **\$** 5 (1 - 1) - 2 - (P) - 3(P) – 3♦ 3♣ is pass or correct

(m) ♠ KQJ62 **y** 7 AQ ♣ AQ743

 $(1 \lor) - 2 \lor - (P) - 3 .$ (P) - 3♥

3♥ is a strong hand, game try

(n) ♠ KJ765 ♥ QJ842 **4** ♣ K6  $(1 \diamond) - 2 \diamond - (X) - 2 \checkmark$ (3♦) – P

Don't bid your hand twice!

and does not like hearts



#### Responses to Michaels Cue Bid after a minor suit opening or unusual 2NT:

Once you know both of partner's suits, bid as high as you are prepared to go. Re-evaluate your hand with a double fit.

(o)

♠ Q5

♥ KJ8

♠ AJ54

♣ 9875

(p)

♠ 975♥ QJ82

Q43K32

(1♠) – 2NT– (P) – 3♣

(q)

**▲** A543

**8** 

♦ KQ94

♣ A754

 $(1 \lor) - 2NT - (3 \lor) - 5 .$