

Michaels Cue Bids & Unusual 2NT Overcall

Lesson Content

This lesson includes cue bidding a major, cue bidding a minor and bidding the unusual 2NT.

- Cue a major = other major plus a minor
- Cue a minor = both majors
- If two suits have been bid, cue their first suit = 5/5+ in the unbid suits
- 2NT = two lowest unbid suits (**must be alerted – explain**)

The strength of these bids is usually 10+ HCP but explain that there are different views and you must have an agreement with your partner.

Cover the various responses to the Michaels overcall when you have only one known suit. Emphasise that bidding the **lower of the other two suits at any level is a “pass or correct” bid (must be alerted)**

2NT is a forcing enquiry looking for game or better (**must be alerted**)

Discuss the subsequent auction and that the Michaels bidder now shows both their other suit and their strength

Cover the response when you know both the suits (partner has cued a minor or bid the unusual 2NT). Bid as high as you are prepared to go and upgrade a double fit.

Main Points to Emphasise

Showing a two suiter hand is important for partner to assess their trick taking value as these are strong playing hands if you find a fit. If you use Michaels or 2NT you should have most of your values in your long suits. Responder can upgrade their honours in your suits or a double fit. They should downgrade a misfit.

When partner cues a major

- Bid the known major is to play at any level – **at the lowest level, may not have a fit.**
- Bid the lower of the other two suits is pass or correct at **any level**. Give an example of a minimum 3-level bid eg (1♥) - 2♥ - (P) - 3♣
- 2NT is forcing – asking for the other suit and the overcaller's strength (game interest or better)

When partner cues a minor or bids 2NT

- Once you know both suits you should bid as high as you are prepared to go, either “to make” or as a sacrifice

Lesson Progression

- Discuss the different bids to show a two-suited hand
- Discuss all the responses
- Go through some examples
- Explain the value of a two-suited hand
- Explain that you can now jump bid pre-emptively (in a known suit or as a “pass or correct” bid)
- Emphasise that **2NT is an enquiry bid** (as for a weak two opener – beginners lesson 9) but asking for the other suit as well as the strength
- Revise hands where you should not use a Michaels – 5/4, one of your suits is their suit, or bad suits with honours in your shortages
- Play the hands
- The bidding of some hands may mean some do not get to play many hands, so switch them around 180° and play them again if there is time