

Stamford Bridge Club

4th May 2016

Overcalling With Two Suited Hands Recap

1

What criteria do we use for two suited overcalls?

At least 5/5 shape in two suits*

*not the opened suit!

Wide ranging so no high card point (hcp) limit on them but **most overcalls fall in the range 9-15**

In common with other calls we like to have our **points in the long suits** (i.e. the suits we're showing).

2

Why use them?

Frequent

Give partner **two bites** of the cherry by showing two suits immediately

Apart from our own constructive bidding, we **put the opponents under pressure**. Often we preempt and force the other side to guess. They must make a bidding decision at a high level.

3

Summary of Two Suited Overcalls

Over a 1level major suit opening, 2N shows both minors:

(1♥) 2N Shows 5+diamonds and 5+clubs

(1♠) 2N Also shows both minors
(at least 5/5)

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We can show 5/5majors over a 1minor opening by cue bidding the opponents' suit:

(1♣) 2♣ 5/5majors

(1♦) 2♦ 5/5majors

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Over a 1minor opening we show the other minor and a major in the following way:

(1♣) 2N Shows 5diamonds and a 5card major

(1♦) 2N Shows 5clubs and a 5card major

[then a cue bid by the overcaller's partner asks for the major]

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And, lastly, when the opponents open 1major we can show the other major and a minor as follows:

(1♥) 2♥ 5spades and 5cards in a minor

(1♠) 2♠ 5hearts and 5cards in a minor

[then a 2N bid by the overcaller' partner asks for the minor]

[There'll be a handout of all these 5/5 hands to take with you]

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Are there any costs to the use of these bids?

No. They replace a use of these bids that would show rare hand types. These can be dealt with in a different way.

A couple of examples follow.

8

♠ Q 6 4
 ♥ A Q J 3
 ♦ A K J
 ♣ K 10 7

Right hand opponent opens 1♥.

2N *could* show this hand (balanced 20 count) but, in modern bidding, we'd double first then bid a minimum number of no trumps.

With a direct 1N overcall showing 15-18 hcp's, this *delayed no trump bid shows 19-21*.

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♠ A K J 3
 ♥ K Q J 10
 ♦ A
 ♣ K Q J 2

Right hand opponent opens 1♦. In days of yore bridge players would call 2♦, a cue bid to show a hand unconditionally forcing to game.

In modern bidding, we start *with a double* and then bid strongly.

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... and, as David has said many times, when using these bids (both when overcalling and responding to the overcall):

BID AS HIGH AS YOU DARE

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Next week (Wednesday, 11th May)

Declarer Play
 Make That Contract

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