

# Michaels Two – Suiters

## Key Idea

- A way to show a two-suited hand
- (5(+)-5(+)) after an opponent has opened, by bidding opener's suit.
- This is a conventional bid & needs to be alerted.

## Requirements for Using 'Michaels'

- 2 five+ card suits
- Good suits, 2+ of the top five honours in both A, K, Q, J, 10 (Q,J,9 xx Minimum)
- 6+ HCP points in the 2 suits (taking vulnerability into account)

## The Michaels cue bid is an unlimited bid, but more often used with a weakish hand

- The cue-bidder may take further action after hearing his partner's response
- Partner should jump the bidding with a good fit, at least 4 cards, and may stretch his bid to obstruct the opponents – a sacrifice bid, taking vulnerability into account

### Bid 2C over an opening bid of 1C

♠ JT952

♥ AJT86

♦ 94

♣ 3

6 HCP

### Bid 2D over an opening bid of 1D

♠ JT872

♥ KQ965

♦ 4

♣ A3

10 HCP

### Bid 2S over an opening bid of 1S

♠ 4

♥ QJ873

♦ AKT52

♣ 96

10 HCP

### Bid 2H over an opening bid of 1H

♠ AK963

♥ -

♦ 765

♣ QT842

9 HCP

## Advancers Options

### **If the cue bidder shows a major & a minor**

e.g. 1H/S, (2H/S)

- bid the major with a fit
- jump with a good fit

With no major fit:

- 3C = to be passed or corrected

### **If the cue bidder shows both majors**

e.g. 1C/D, (2C/D)

- bid the longer major
- jump with a good fit

## Defence to Michaels overcall

### **If the bidding has been 1H: (2H) = spades & an unspecified minor**

- 3H = equivalent to a sound raise to the two-level
- 3C/D = new suit, natural & forcing
- 2NT = natural, stopper(s) in their major, 10-12 HCP, not forcing
- Double = 10+ HCP, looking for penalties, strong holding  
in opponent's major & no support for partner's suit

### **If the bidding has been 1C: (2C) = both majors**

- 3C = equivalent to a sound raise to the two-level
- 4C or 5C = pre-emptive
- 2NT = natural with stoppers in both majors, 10-12, not forcing
- Double = 10+ HCP, looking for penalties, strong holding  
in opponent's majors & no support for partner's suit

# The Unusual No Trump

## Key Idea

- A way to show 5(+) – 5(+) in the two lowest unbid suits after an opponent has opened the bidding, by jumping to 2NT. This is a conventional bid & needs to be alerted.
- Often the bidder is hoping to find a profitable sacrifice contract particularly when non vulnerable against vulnerable.
- To be regarded as a form of take out bid based on shape rather than HCP

## Requirements for using ‘The Unusual No Trump’

- 2 five+ card suits
- Good suits, 2+ of the top five honours in both A, K, Q, J, 10 (Q,J,9xx Minimum)
- 6+ HCP points in the 2 suits (taking vulnerability into account)

### Bid 2NT over an opening bid of 1S

♠ 5  
♥ J3  
♦ KQ874  
♣ QJT62  
9 HCP

### Bid 2NT over an opening bid of 1H

♠ 8  
♥ 7  
♦ JT7642  
♣ KQJ54  
7 HCP

### Bid 2NT over an opening bid of 1C

♠ 4  
♥ QJ873  
♦ AKT52  
♣ 96  
10 HCP

### Bid 2NT over an opening bid of 1D

♠ -  
♥ QJ753  
♦ 53  
♣ KJT842  
7 HCP

**Unusual NT is possible if one or both opponents have bid –**

**Shows 5+ Cs & 5+ Ds**

W	N	E	S
1H	P	1S	<u>2NT</u>

(This needs partnership agreement.  
Double would also mean other 2 suits, an opening hand & not necessarily 5+/5+ )

♠ 76  
♥ 9  
♦ AJT84  
♣ KJ982

**Unusual NT is possible if one or both opponents have bid –**

**shows 5+ Hs & 5+ Ds**

W	N	E	S
1C	P	1NT	<u>2NT</u>

♠ 7  
♥ A9832  
♦ AJT842  
♣ J

## After Partner uses Unusual No Trump

- With a weak hand, bid the longer of partner's two suits - if the length is equal, bid the cheaper. This allows the 2NT bidder to make a forcing bid by bidding again.
- Do not pass unless you have 0-2 cards in each of partner's suits, plus length & stoppers in the other two suits
- With a great fit in one of partner's suits, pre-empt with a jump bid – this is non forcing  
Check vulnerability

## Defence to UNT

- Bidding 3 of partner's suit is equivalent to a sound raise to the two-level
- Double for penalties with 10+pts and no fit for partner – your side has the majority of points
- 3 of one of the opposition's suits is showing a stopper & asking partner to bid 3NT with a suitable hand
- 3NT is to play. It shows a suitable hand - strong enough and stoppers in both of the opposition's suits