

## DEFENCE TO 2-SUITED OVERCALLS (Michaels, Ghestem, CRO, etc.)

When the opposition have shown a 5-5 distributional hand over partner's opening bid, they give you a better opportunity to define your hand. I would suggest the following approach:

### 1. One Suit Pinpointed (e.g. some Michaels bids)

- double – values 9+ looking for penalty
- immediate support for partner – weak 5–8 points
- bid of pinpointed suit – 9+ and support (good raise) for partner's suit
- bid of either unspecified suit – 5-8 non-forcing – 5 card suit
- 2NT and 3NT – as without interference (if available)

### 2. Two Suits Pinpointed (e.g. Ghestem, CRO)

- double – values 9+ looking for penalty of one of opponent's suits
- immediate support for partner – weak 5-8 points – pre-emptive
- bid of **lower** ranking specified suit – 4 cards in the un-specified suit – (~ 9+ points)
- bid of **higher** ranking specified suit – good raise (~9 – 11 points) in partner's suit.
- bid of unbid suit – non-forcing – 5 card suit
- 2NT and 3NT - as without interference (if available)
- jump bid in either specified suit - stop ask bid

(From the above it is apparent that if the opposition are playing Michaels, there is less opportunity to accurately describe the hand in the third seat).

AFH