

Ghestem Two Suited Overcalls

Rationale

In these lessons, we have discussed a more popular set of two suited overcalls – Michaels (*Lesson 2*)

An alternative set of two suited overcalls popular on the Sunshine Coast are the *Ghestem Two Suited Overcalls*. The power of Ghestem is that *both* suits are known immediately. Partner is well placed to make high level decisions.

- Ghestem is used either very weak or very strong. It is not used in the range 10 – 15 HCP. With the weak option, the ghestem bidder *never* bids again. With the strong option, the ghestem bidder *will* bid again. With 5–5 or 6–6 shape, the ghestem bidder may revalue the strength of the hand upwards. Vulnerability needs to be considered.

- Two suited Overcalls are not recommended when the values are in the side suits.

- Ghestem is not used over pre-empts. Revert to Michaels Cue Bid.

- If you don't wind up as declarer, you might end up with a poor score. A good declarer will pick the exact layout of the cards.

FAQ: What are the ghestem bids?

S H D C

Think of the suits in this familiar layout.

- **Cue bid of their suit** shows the *extremes* e.g. (1S) – 2S. Cross out spades. The *extreme* suits left are clubs & hearts.

- **2NT Jump Overcall** shows *lower two suits* e.g. (1S) – 2NT! shows clubs & diamonds.

- **Jump shift to 3C** shows the *unbid suits* e.g. (1S) – 3C! shows hearts & diamonds

- **The bids are different over a 1C opening.** Since 1C is commonly short, 2C is natural. So,

- (1C) – 3C shows the *extremes*, D & S

- (1C) – 2D! weak jump overcall in 2D is NOT available. This sequence shows the unbid suits.

FAQ: What bids are lost using ghestem

ANS: weak jump overcall to 3C and 2D. This is quite a loss. However, ghestem supporters don't mind.

FAQ: Can you use ghestem in the reopening seat?

ANS: Yes. However, you may be using a natural 2NT(17 – 19) as in *Lesson 27*

- **Defence to Ghestem** e.g. 1H – (3C!)

Double. Use this to show clubs or, by agreement, suggesting penalties and showing a penalty double of at least one of their suits.

3D Cue bid of their lower suit. Good raise to 3H+

3H Not invitational. Good raise to 2H.

3S splinter

4C natural and forcing

4D Splinter

4H The usual weak freak

If the ghestem bidders win the auction, trump leads are often good – unless it is a singleton or you hold AK in another suit.

Ethical Note

If partner forgets your ghestem bid, you will know because he has failed to alert your 3C or 2D bid. Do

not attempt a rescue! You are not permitted to use the alerting system to save yourself. Similarly, if you bid 3C and mean clubs, you will be aware of your mistake when partner alerts.

You must bid on the assumption that partner has understood your bid. This can lead to some horrific penalties when you are doubled. Even when you land on your feet, directors will award an adjusted score if the opponents are misinformed.

If you are declarer, make sure that you correct any misinformation before the opening lead. It won't help much but it is your duty under the laws.

Try bidding these hands. NS vul. South is dealer and opens as shown:-

♠K6543	♠A9872	(1H)	2H	(X)	4S
♥92	♥6	(X)	all pass		
♦5	♦J32	They just missed 6D/6H			
♣QJ432	♣T876				

♠8	♠AKQ53	(1D)	2NT!	(P)	3C
♥A9432	♥8	all pass			
♦63	♦J8742				
♣KT432	♣96				

Sometimes WE get caught. Don't consider passing 2NT. It will be unplayable. They don't know how bad a position that we're in.

♠AKQ54	♠73	(1C)	2D!	(X)	P ¹
♥AKT832	♥Q6	(P)	4H ² all pass		
♦8	♦T973				
♣62	♣J8743				

¹This pass should show equal length in west's suits.

²This is a huge hand. 4H has chances.

♠8	♠T74	(1S)	3C!	(3S ¹)	P ²
♥KT543	♥82	all pass			
♦QJ765	♦93				
♣94	♣KQ7632				

¹shaded raise – good raise to 2S

²east is not interested in red suits

♠KQT42	♠6	(1H)	1S ¹	(2H)	P ²
♥A3	♥654	(P)	3D ³ all pass		
♦A6543	♦QT92				
♣6	♣A8732				

¹With this strength, we need to bid our suits.

²east's failure to support spades (*Lesson 5*) shows three card support is not held

³Too good to pass out 2H. Is this luck or good judgment? East doesn't have majors. So, 3D looks to have good chances.

♠KT432	♠J98	(1D ¹)	P ²	(1H)	P
♥76	♥T532	(1NT)	all pass		
♦A9432	♦QT6	¹ Precision			
♣T	♣AQ8	² We're fixed. Not happy.			

♠QT743	♠862	(1H)	P	(2H)	2NT!
♥KT432	♥–	(X)	3D all pass		
♦A9	♦KQ432	West shouldn't bid with			
♣2	♣A9732	hearts. Pity we miss 2S			