



GBC Online Lessons

Distributional Hands – Michaels Cue Bid

Practice

Hand 1

West Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 7 6 3 2		♠ A J 10 9						
♥ K 8 5 3 2		♥ 4						
♦ K Q		♦ 10 9 4 3						
♣ Q		♣ A J 8 5						
♠ K 5	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> </table>		N		W	S	E	♠ A J 10 9
	N							
W	S	E						
♥ A Q 9		♥ 4						
♦ A J 8 5 2		♦ 10 9 4 3						
♣ 6 3 2		♣ A J 8 5						
♠ Q 4								
♥ J 10 7 6								
♦ 7 6								
♣ K 10 9 7 4								

W	N	E	S
1♦	2♦	2♠	P
3♦	P	P	P

Michaels and Unusual 2NT are great preempting tools when **NOT**-Vulnerable. When Vulnerable, not so much. Your RHO opens 1♦ and you bid 2♦ to show two 5+ card Majors. Your LHO cue bids Spades to show Opener 10+ HCP and 4+ Diamonds. Advancer (the partner of the Michaels bidder) passes and Opener bids 3♦. Opener may have given 3NT a thought, but Spades appear to be a liability. All pass and it appears E/W should either be in 5♦ or 3NT. If North had passed, 3NT would have been logical for E/W. Consider Michaels as a preemptive bid. What is the purpose of a preempt? To interfere with the opponents. You did.

Hand 2

East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 7		♠ A 9 6						
♥ 9 8 7 6 4		♥ A Q J 10 3						
♦ Q J		♦ K 10 7 6						
♣ A Q J 9 3		♣ K						
♠ 10 5 4 3	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> </table>		N		W	S	E	♠ A 9 6
	N							
W	S	E						
♥ K 2		♥ A Q J 10 3						
♦ A 8 5 3 2		♦ K 10 7 6						
♣ 10 2		♣ K						
♠ K Q J 8 2								
♥ 5								
♦ 9 4								
♣ 8 7 6 5 4								

W	N	E	S
		1♥	2♥
P	2NT	P	3♣
P	P	3♦	P
P	4♣	P	P
4♦	P	P	P

North/South are Not-Vulnerable – a perfect opportunity to preempt. South’s Michaels bid shows a 5+ card Spade suit and an undisclosed 5+ card Minor suit. West (Responder) passes and Advancer (the partner of the Michaels bidder) cannot tolerate Spades. Advancer bids 2NT to ask her partner to name her Minor suit. Opener passes and South shows that her 5-card Minor suit is Clubs. Everyone passes until Opener is not ready to give up. Opener bids 3♦. It is obvious that Opener could not bid Diamonds until she knew which Minor suit that South held. Two passes, then Advancer bids 4♣ and now two passes and Responder bids 4♦. Again, the interference kept opponents out of a makeable game.



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Hand 3

South Deals
Both Vul

♠ 7 2	♠ J 8	♠ A 6 4
♥ A 5 4 3 2	♥ J 10 8 6	♥ K Q 7
♦ A K 9 8 5 4	♦ Q 10	♦ 6 3
♣ —	♣ J 8 6 5 3	♣ K 10 9 7 4

♠ K Q 10 9 5 3	♠ A 6 4
♥ 9	♥ K Q 7
♦ J 7 2	♦ 6 3
♣ A Q 2	♣ K 10 9 7 4

W	N	E	S
			1♠
2♠	P	3♥	
P	P		

All are vulnerable. South opens 1♠ and West (Overcaller) has a difficult decision. West has an excellent Overcall in Diamonds but West also has a 5-card Heart suit. The Heart suit is NOT good enough to Overcall. Furthermore, West cannot Overcall 2♦ then bid 2♥ on her next bid because that would show a much bigger hand – a reverse. West's 11 HCP are two Aces and a King which are all in his two suits. With the Void, the 6-5 shape and the purity of her suits, South invokes Michaels by bidding 2♠. North (Responder) passes, and Advancer (East) bids 3♥.

Hand 4

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 7 5 2	♠ Q	♠ A 9 8 4 3
♥ K 8 7 6	♥ A J 4 2	♥ Q 10 9 5 3
♦ K 10	♦ Q 7 3	♦ A J 8
♣ 9 8 6 4	♣ A K J 3 2	♣ —

♠ K J 10 6	♠ A 9 8 4 3
♥ —	♥ Q 10 9 5 3
♦ 9 6 5 4 2	♦ A J 8
♣ Q 10 7 5	♣ —

W	N	E	S
	1♣	2♣	P
2♥	P	P	P

North opens 1♣ and East bids a Michaels 2♣. By now you should begin to notice the difference in what you should do Vulnerable versus Not-Vulnerable. East (Overcaller) is showing two 5+ card Majors. South (Responder) cannot bid with 6 HCP. Advancer (West) has a double fit in the Majors but the 9+ card fit in Hearts is an easy choice. Advancer bids 2♥. North has 17 HCP but is stuck because she has great Hearts (♥AJ42) and a singleton Spade. All pass.



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Hand 5

West Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ A Q	♠ K 9 8 7 5	♠ J 4 3 2
♥ 8 6	♥ A K 10 7 5	♥ J 3
♦ K Q 8 7 6	♦ 10 9 3	♦ J 5 4 2
♣ K 8 6 5	♣ —	♣ Q J 7

♠ 10 6	
♥ Q 9 4 2	
♦ A	
♣ A 10 9 4 3 2	



North/South are Non-Vulnerable. West opens 1♦ and North makes a Michaels 2♦ bid. East (Responder) passes and South (Advancer) has a preference for Hearts. South bids 2♥.

W	N	E	S
1♦	2♦	P	2♥
P	P	P	

NB – All the hands to this point were taken from Jim Ricker’s book: *Beyond Beginning Bridge Using 2/1*. Some of the hands have been rotated to change the dealer position.



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Hand 6

This hand and its commentary are by Eddie Kantar

	984	
	8	
	AK863	
	AJ94	
A10		KQJ65
AQ43		K10652
QJ74		52
Q86		10
N E S W	732	
1D 2D P 4H	J97	
	109	
Opening lead: D Ace	K7532	

Bidding Commentary: The 2D overcall is 'Michaels' showing 5-5 or possibly 6-5 (either way) in the majors. Assume a weaker hand. If partner has a stronger hand, he bids again. As West with a double fit in both suits, the sky's the limit. Give yourself two extra points for each A, K, or Q in partner's suits and a bonus point holding three honors in partner's two suits. Your hand has zoomed to 17 points!
P.S. Forget the minor suit honors.

Defensive Commentary: As North, after the high-low in diamonds, indicating a doubleton, cash the CA before leading a third diamond. If you don't, declarer can discard dummy's club perhaps costing partner a trump trick. If you do this right, DAK, CA, then a diamond, down one.

Play Commentary: If North plays the ace-king and a diamond, discard a club from dummy forcing South to trump. If North cashes the CA and then leads a third diamond, your best shot is to ruff with the king and hope hearts are 2-2 or the jack is singleton. Good luck.

Some clarifications on Kantar's abbreviations. In the second paragraph, "cash the CA" is play the Club Ace. The last sentence reads "If you do this right, DAK (Diamond Ace, King), CA (Club Ace), then a diamond, down one."

Final paragraph: the CA is, as before Club Ace.

¹ This hand and its commentary are taken from Eddie Kantar