

16) GAstem 2 suited overcall in 4th seat when opener partner has responded 1 over 1

We have seen the advantages of GAstem overcalls in 2nd seat , but what can we do when bidding goes for instance like this :

W	N	E	S
1♣	p	1♦	?

North , our partner has not overcalled and we can deduct that he does not have a major 5 carder, nor a 2 suiter composed by ♦-♥ , ♦-♠ or ♥-♠.

This does not exclude that he might have 4♣ – 4♥ or 4♣ – 4♠. It could also be that partner is so weak that could not overcall at all.

In this situation , if , sitting South , we would have a two suiter composed by 4+♥ and 4+♠ , we could have an excellent probability to locate an 8 cards fit in one of our majors. In order to inform partner about our holding , we can simply bid 1NT showing both the unmentioned suits . Let us see it in detail :

W	N	E	S
1♣	p	1♦	1NT = 4+♥ and 4+♠ .
1♣	p	1♥	1NT = 4+♦ and 4+♠ .
1♣	p	1♠	1NT = 4+♦ and 4+♥
1♦	p	1♥	1NT = 4+♣ and 4+♠
1♦	p	1♠	1NT = 4+♣ and 4+♥
1♥	p	1♠	1NT = 4+♣ and 4+♦

Once again North will be able to choose between our 2 suits , remaining at 2 level in an easy defensible contract..

Somebody might object that we are **loosing** the possibility to overcall with a natural 1NT bid.

The remark is correct but is it a real loss ? West , being the opener ought to have at least 12 HCP. East , responding 1 over 1 promises a minimum of 6 HCP. To make a natural 1NT overcall we should normally have 16-18 HCP.

In the whole deck we have only 40 HCP so that means that North is left with 4 or 5 HCP. Is it better to play in 1NT or rather in 2 of a suit with a 4-4 fit ?

The answer is intuitive.

Considering the frequency of use , how many times we would have a 16-18 balanced hand in one of the above bidding sequences ? . How many times we would instead have a hand suitable for a GAstem overcalls ? Probabilities are simply not comparable. Believe me , we are not losing anything.