

## 17) GAstem 2 suited overcall in 4th seat when opener partner has responded 1 NT

This situation has been thoroughly studied by analysts. In bridge literature we can find numerous examples where various authors, underline the importance of an overcall in such context.

The urge of overcalling is intuitive :

- Responder has 6-9 HCP.
- Responder has no fit for opener suit.
- Responder normally denies a 4+cards in a major.

Overcalling is ok , but with what kind of shape and with how many HCP ?  
Once again GAstem 2 suited overcall can solve the problem . You base your overcall on opener suit and you bid :

- 2♣ = minimum 4-4 in the 2 LRS except opener suit.
  - 2♦ = minimum 4-4 in the 2 HRS except opener suit.
  - X = minimum 4-4 in the 2 ES except opener suit.
- Let us see in details how it works :

W	N	E	S
1♣	p	1NT	2♣ = minimum 4-4 in ♦ - ♥ . 2♦ = minimum 4-4 in ♥ - ♠ . X = minimum 4-4 in ♦ - ♠ .
1♦	p	1NT	2♣ = minimum 4-4 in ♣ - ♥ . 2♦ = minimum 4-4 in ♥ - ♠ . X = minimum 4-4 in ♣ - ♠ .
1♥	p	1NT	2♣ = minimum 4-4 in ♣ - ♦ . 2♦ = minimum 4-4 in ♦ - ♠ . X = minimum 4-4 in ♣ - ♠ .
1♠	p	1NT	2♣ = minimum 4-4 in ♣ - ♦ . 2♦ = minimum 4-4 in ♦ - ♥ . X = minimum 4-4 in ♣ - ♥ .

Choosing responses from North will **always** be at 2 level and this will guarantee a defensible contract as well as a high frequency of use.

Once again it is worthwhile to note that HCP requirement is 6-11 HCP but , being North a passed hand, overcaller could also have an opening hand.

Overcalling with 12+ HCP can make us miss the opportunity of bidding game ?  
Bridge , as we all know, is a game of probabilities , thus we can not exclude in absolute terms such possibility. We can however state that with about 20 HCP on our side , game will be a rare occurrence.