

Bob Jones August 31 Quiz

Goren on Bridge: Weekly bridge quiz

Goren Bridge August 31, 2024

Q 1 – Neither vulnerable

♠A K J T ♥A Q 9 5 ♦Q 9 8 ♣7 5

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1NT Pass Pass 2♣

?

What call would you make?

Q 3 – East-West vulnerable

♠Q 9 5 ♥Q 8 5 2 ♦K 7 4 ♣K 9 2

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♠ P ?

What call would you make?

Q 5 – North-South vulnerable

♠5 4 2 ♥A K 9 8 ♦K 7 4 ♣A 9 7

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♣ 2♠ Dbl* Pass

?

*Negative

What call would you make?

Q 2 – North-South vulnerable

♠5 3 ♥K Q J 7 5 ♦9 6 ♣A Q 6 3

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♥ 2NT* ?

*at least 5-5 in the minors

What call would you make?

Q 4 – Both vulnerable

♠6 4 ♥J 8 7 ♦Q T 8 7 3 ♣K 8 6

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♦ 1♠ ?

What call would you make?

Q 6 – East-West vulnerable

♠5 3 ♥A 9 ♦A 8 6 4 ♣A K 7 6 3

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

?

What call would you make?

Look for answers on Monday.

Bob Jones August 31 Quiz

Question 1

Q 1 – Neither vulnerable

♠AKJT ♥AQ95 ♦Q98 ♣75

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

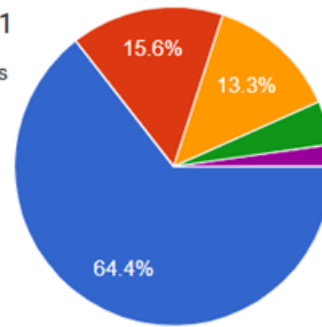
1NT Pass Pass 2♣

?

Question 1

45 responses

- Double
- Pass
- 2H
- 2S
- 3S



Bob Jones X In Charles Goren's day, a double here would have been for penalties. Modern players, sensibly, play it for takeout. Double.

Steve Vogel X I have support for all the unbid suits as well as quality high card points. I am not going to let the opponents play 2♣ undoubled. I view the risk of this bid as low, even though there is some risk if partner has a bust or near bust.

Joe Muenks X Assuming the opponent bid is one-suited clubs, I play this as a takeout double with 2 clubs and a max opener. I've found this to work well reaching 2 of an 8-card major or pushing them up to 3♣.

Bob Fisk X (Takeout). I have support for the other three suits and a nice hand, so I'm not selling out to 2♣. Partner doesn't have a 5-card major, but partner could easily hold Qxxx Kxxx JTxx x, and we're cold for 4♥ or 4♠ if nobody gets a diamond ruff (punch them if that's what happens).

Steve Moese X Opener's double opposite a passed partner is for takeout. That's what we have. Let's compete.

Mike Ma X I play that after responder passes 1NT, the first double by either partner when opp balances is TO. Note that this has nothing to do with whether you play penalty (my preference) or negative if they overcall in the direct seat. I can't think of a more ideal hand to X TO of 2♣ than this one. And after finding your 4-4 M, you should thank your RHO for helping you do that.



Bob Jones August 31 Quiz

Question 2

Q 2 – North-South vulnerable

♠5 3 ♥K Q J 7 5 ♦9 6 ♣A Q 6 3

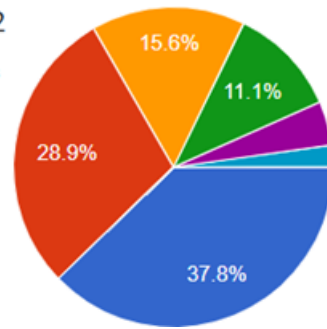
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♥ 2NT ?

Question 2

45 responses

- 4H
- 3C
- 3D
- 3H
- Double
- 3NT



Bob Jones **3♣** A 4♥ bid would be semi-preemptive. When defending against an Unusual No Trump bid, 3♣ shows a good hand with hearts and 3♦ shows the same with spades. Bid 3♣.

Steve Vogel **3♣** I want to play in 4♥, although the vulnerability is very susceptible to a 5♦ sacrifice by the opponents. The book bid for this hand is 3♣, playing unusual versus unusual, where a cue bid of the opponent's lower suit shows a limit+ raise in partner's hearts suit. Part of me wants to raise directly to 4♥ in an attempt to shut out a sacrifice, but that bid suggests a distributional hand with less than a limit raise. One significant issue is that bidding 4♥ risks a possible slam if partner has a really good hand. Best to describe my hand correctly so partner has the best information to set the final contract and deal with a possible sacrifice.

Joe Muenks **X** With 5 trump, so unlikely to defend regardless, this bid announces values in a minor and a good hand. The alternative of 3♣, showing 10+ with hearts is a good bid, too, but I'm hoping I help partner judge since I'm anticipating this auction getting real high real quick.

Bob Fisk **3♣** (Unusual vs. Unusual). When the opponents make a two-suited overcall and we know both of their suits (clubs and diamonds in this case), we have two cuebids available. A cuebid of their lower-ranking suit (clubs) shows a limit+ raise for partner's hearts. A cuebid of their higher-ranking suit (diamonds) would show 5+ spades and 10+ HCP (i.e., a forcing spade bid). If you don't play Unusual vs. Unusual, you're giving too much away to your opponents. Don't do that.

Steve Moese **3♦** The original Unusual over unusual uses the higher ranking cuebid to show a fit and INV+ values. That leaves more room for strain exploration when showing a GF in the 4th suit. In Cincinnati it is common to bid 3♣ here, following the memory mnemonic low=low. Either way, 3♥ and 4♥ are errors here unless you do not play Unusual/Unusual. If not, bid 4♥.

Mike Ma **3♦** Two issues are raised. Do you have an agreement for what bids mean over 2NT AND do you X with your C holding. The latter is judgment, and addressed by the panelists. The former you should have agreement to with your partner because unusual 2NT happens quite common Without discussion, most would play Un over Un, where 3♥/♠ are competing and 3♣/♦ are invitational+ for ♥/♠. Some play Modified Un over Un, so that 3♣ is forcing bid in the other M, while 3♦ is LR+ in the opening M.

Note: If you have GF hand in opening M, like in this question, do not just bid 4M. You need to clue partner in that it is your hand, so that he knows what to do if they bid 5m.

Bob Jones August 31 Quiz

Question 3

Q 3 – East-West vulnerable

♠Q 9 5 ♥Q 8 5 2 ♦K 7 4 ♣K 9 2

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♠ P ?

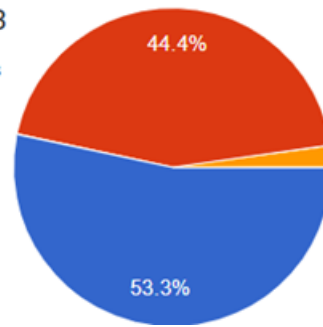
Question 3

45 responses

● 2S

● 1NT

● 3S



Bob Jones **2♠** 4-3-3-3 is the worst distribution in bridge. Downgrade this 10-point hand and bid 2♠.

Steve Vogel **2♠** I have 10 HCP, but I have poor distribution for a suit contract (3-4-3-3), my points include no Aces and my intermediates are average. I think it is best to downgrade my hand valuation to 9 points. If partner invites game, I will accept.

Joe Muenks **2♠** You should do a 3-card limit raise (forcing NT then jump in spades) unless you play constructive raises. This square 10 is worth about 9 playing pts.

Bob Fisk **2♠** This isn't a 3-card limit raise. Nope. You have 3-3-3-4 distribution (ick), no Tens (ick), and no connected honors (ick). Contrast this hand with QT9 KQxx xx KT9x. That's a 3-card limit raise for spades. Nuff said.

Steve Moese **2♠** I prefer a heavy 2♠ to a poor 3-card limit raise for two important reasons: 1) 3=433 shape is horrible for a trump contract (no ruffs in the short trump hand). And 2) The trump Q is a great card, but the isolated ♥Q is worth less than 2 unless partner holds a heart card. If partner makes a move toward game we will offer 3NT as a choice of games.

Mike Ma **2♠** 10 hcp, 3433, no honor combination. This is not a LR for me.

Bob Jones August 31 Quiz

Question 4

Q 4 – Both vulnerable

♠ 6 4 ♥ J 8 7 ♦ Q T 8 7 3 ♣ K 8 6

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♦ 1♠ ?

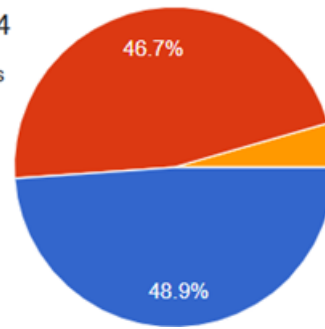
Question 4

45 responses

● 2D

● 3D

● Pass



Bob Jones **3♦** A vulnerable pre-empt should show a little something. This hand is perfect. Bid 3♦.

Steve Vogel **3♦** I'm not going to let the vulnerability keep me from making my normal bid on this hand. Yes, I would prefer better distribution, but with 5 diamonds, I feel this is the best bid (over a more conservative 2♦).

Joe Muenks **2♦** If 2♠ shows 10+ and 5+ diamonds then 2♦ reverts to 6-9 and 5+ diamonds, how convenient.

Bob Fisk **3♦** Preemptive jump raise. Partner will hold 4+ diamonds around 90% of the time when they open 1♦, so don't worry that you're in a 3-5 fit. You have spade shortness (yay), QTxxx in partner's suit (yay), and the ♣K behind the overcaller (yay a final time).

Steve Moese **3♦** A beautiful preemptive raise. Just do it!

Mike Ma **3♦** Assuming 1♦ = 4 unless 4=4=3=2, you have high probability for 9 D fit. Meanwhile, they will have 8 S fit on average. I am not selling out to 2♠, so if I bid 2♦ now, and they bid 2♠, I will be bidding 3♦. May as well get there now and put the pressure, aka last guess on the opps rather than let them do it to me.

Bob Jones August 31 Quiz

Question 5

Q 5 – North-South vulnerable

♠5 4 2 ♥A K 9 8 ♦K 7 4 ♣A 9 7

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♣ 2♠ Dbl Pass

?

Question 5

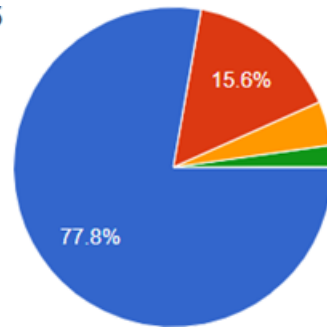
45 responses

3H

4H

3S

Pass



Bob Jones 3♥ Don't punish partner for competing aggressively. Just bid 3♥. Leave the aggression to him.

Steve Vogel 4♥ A negative double which forces to the 3-level should be based on 10+ points. With 14 HCP, I would normally take the chance and bid game, but my 3-4-3-3 shape gives me some pause in matchpoints, not IMPs. Still, all my high cards are Aces and Kings, so I would go for it.

Joe Muenks 4♥ We hate our distribution but we cannot deny our 14 hcp and 4 hearts, so we bid the game.

Bob Fisk 4♥ Partner's negative double, forcing you to the three level, shows a very nice hand. If you simply "sign off" in 3♥, partner will never expect you to have six controls (Ace=2, King=1). Aces and Kings are undervalued in the point-count system, so this is certainly a maximum in terms of HCP. You wish you have a doubleton (alas), but at least you have nothing wasted in your LHO's suit.

Steve Moese 3♥ Again, 4=333 deflates optimism. Opposite a minimum negative double Game will be difficult. We hold a maximum for 3♠.

Mike Ma 4♥ N's X does not promise 4 H at this level, just values with no other better bids. But 3 H is pretty much for certain if we give her 2 S. I am bidding game with 14 good points. I am not happy with 4♥ not knowing that partner has 4, but what else can I do? If I bid 3♠, and partner bids 3NT, I may be missing 4-4 H fit. And if she has no S stopper and bids 4m, correcting to 4♥ may say something different to her. Preempt works.

Bob Jones August 31 Quiz

Question 6

Q 6 – East-West vulnerable

♠5 3 ♥A 9 ♦A 8 6 4 ♣A K 7 6 3

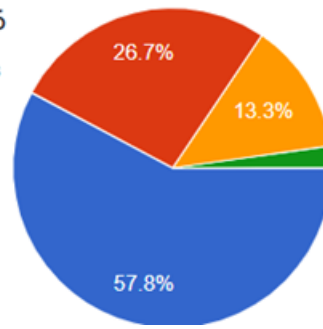
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

?

Question 6

45 responses

- 1NT
- 1C
- 1D
- 2C



Bob Jones **1♣** 1NT with 2-2 in the majors is usually a poor idea, and 1♦ doesn't appeal with such a weak suit. Open 1♣.

Steve Vogel **1NT** This hand with 15 HCP and a good 5-card suit easily qualifies for a 1NT opening. If I were, instead, to open 1♣, I would have a terrible rebid issue over one a major suit response by partner. I would not consider a 1♦ opening with this hand.

Joe Muenks **1NT** I'm usually wanting to have an honor in each doubleton but in planning my rebid I have decided I do not want to open 1♦ and rebid 2♣ on this hand, so the flawed 1NT it is.

Bob Fisk **1♣** I want to have meatier two-card suits if I'm going to open 1NT with 2-2-4-5 shape. With a hand similar to KJ AQ JTxx AJxxx, I'll open 1NT. If partner responds 1♥ or 1♠ (they will), I'll rebid 2♣ (i.e., I'm a bit too light to reverse into 2♦).

Steve Moese **1NT** We have a balanced hand in the range of 15-17 HCP. No issue here. We avoid a nasty rebid problem at our second turn by showing shape and values now, even though our majors are thin.

Mike Ma **1NT** Just do it. Look for excuse to open 1NT rather than excuse not to. 1NT bidding sequences are some of the easiest to do. As Karen Walker wrote in the Bulletin awhile back, the best bids are the ones which tell partner a narrow description of your hand. Even if you think you can reverse with this hand (opening 1♣, then bidding 2♦ over 1M), how do you think your side will proceed from that point? And that is if opps are nice enough to be silent. Consider 1♣ - (1♠) - X? How would you feel? What does 2♦ mean if you bid 2♦?

08/31/24	1	2	3	4	5	6
Bob Jones	X	3♣	2♠	3♦	3♥	1♣
Steve Vogel	X	3♣	2♠	3♦	4♥	1NT
Joe Muenks	X	X	2♠	2♦	4♥	1NT
Bob Fisk	X	3♣	2♠	3♦	4♥	1♣
Steve Moese	X	3♦	2♠	3♦	3♥	1NT
Mike Ma	X	3♦	2♠	3♦	4♥	1NT
Al Venosa	2♥	4♥	2♠	3♦	3♥	1♣
Anne	2♠	3♥	1NT	2♦	3♥	2♣
AnnR	X	4♥	2♠	3♦	3♥	1NT
Carl Willig	X	4♥	2♠	2♦	3♥	1NT
Carol Wilson	X	4♥	1NT	3♦	3♥	1NT
Chuck	X	4♥	2♠	2♦	3♥	1♣
Darleen	2♠	3♥	1NT	3♦	3♥	1♦
Dave	X	3♣	1NT	3♦	4♥	1♣
Dave D	Pass	3♥	2♠	3♦	3♥	1NT
Dean Congbalay	X	3♣	2♠	Pass	3♥	1NT
Doug Edwards	Pass	4♥	2♠	2♦	3♥	1NT
Ed	2♥	4♥	2♠	3♦	3♥	1NT
Gary Busch	X	4♥	1NT	2♦	3♥	1♦
Gary Herrington	X	4♥	1NT	2♦	3♥	1♣
Greg	X	X	1NT	2♦	3♥	1♦
James D	X	4♥	1NT	3♦	3♥	1NT
James Jacobson	3♠	4♥	3♠	2♦	3♥	1♣
Jay Gala	X	3NT	2♠	2♦	3♥	1♣
Jim Barrett	2♥	3♦	1NT	2♦	3♥	1♣
JohnMcQ	X	3♣	1NT	2♦	3♥	1NT
Jon Hoak	2♥	3♣	2♠	3♦	3♥	1NT
Kevin C.	X	3♣	2♠	2♦	4♥	1NT
Kevin H	X	3♣	1NT	3♦	3♥	1NT
Lanny	X	3♦	1NT	3♦	3♥	1NT
Linda	X	3♦	1NT	3♦	3♥	1♣
Lyn	2♥	3♥	2♠	2♦	Pass	1NT
Mike Burns	X	4♥	1NT	2♦	3♥	1NT
Mónica	2♥	3♦	1NT	Pass	3♥	1NT
Nell Wickstrom	Pass	3♦	1NT	2♦	3♥	1NT
Pam Campbell	X	3♣	2♠	3♦	3♥	1NT
Pete Outcalt	Pass	3♣	1NT	3♦	3♥	1♣
Rick Read	X	3♥	2♠	2♦	3♥	1♣
Robert N.	Pass	3♣	1NT	2♦	3♥	1NT
Rod	X	4♥	2♠	2♦	3♠	1NT
Sue	X	4♥	2♠	2♦	3♥	1NT
Vijay	Pass	3♣	1NT	3♦	3♥	1♦
Zigang Pan	X	4♥	2♠	2♦	3♥	1NT
	X	4♥	1NT	3♦	4♥	1♦
	Pass	4♥	2♠	2♦	3♥	1♦