Goren on Bridge: Weekly bridge quiz
GOREN BRIDGE FEBRUARY 10, 2024
Q 1 − Neither vulnerable

★ K 6 ▼ K 7 3 ◆ 9 8 6 5 ♣ T 7 6 4

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♠ Pass 1NT Pass
2◆ Pass ?

What call would you make?

Q 3 − East-West vulnerable

★ K T 9 ▼ 8 7 5 4 2 ◆ A O 7 ♣ K 6

♠KT9♥87542♦AQ7♠K6

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♥ Pass 3♠\* Pass

?

\*Game-forcing heart raise,
shortness in spades

Q 5 – North-South vulnerable ♠ Q 7 6 3 ♥ J ♦ K Q T 9 7 6 4 ♣ 8

What call would you make?

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST ?

What call would you make?

Q 2 – North-South vulnerable

♠ A J 9 4 3 ♥ Q 8 ♦ A K 7 6 3 ♣ 9

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♠ Pass 2♥ Pass
?

What call would you make?

Q 4 – Both vulnerable

♠ A Q 7 4 ♥ Q 9 7 6 2 ♦ A Q 9 ♣ 6

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

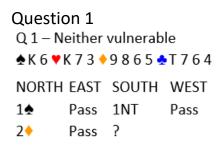
1♥ Pass 1NT Pass

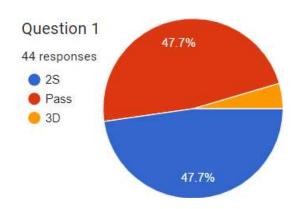
?

What call would you make?

Q 6 – East-West vulnerable ♠ A 7 ♥ A K Q T 7 6 4 ♦ 6 ♣ A J 6 SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

What call would you make? Look for answers on Monday.





Bob Jones 2 Old timers will pass, which is fine. Modern players, who play the 1NT response as forcing, should bid 2 . Partner might have only 3 diamonds.

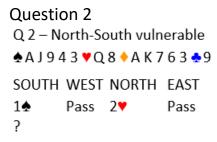
Steve Vogel 2♠ After a forcing notrump response, partner's response in a minor can be 3-cards. I believe it is best to rebid 2♠ with my hand, given 4 small diamonds and a doubleton honor in spades. If I had 2 small spades, I would instead pass the 2♦ rebid.

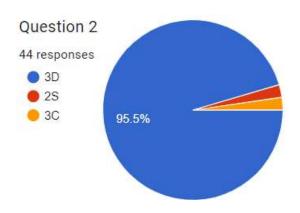
Joe Muenks 2♠ In my partnerships, we return to 2 of the major with honor-X as a matter of system even with minimum hands. Pass feels pretty good with 4-card support for partner's second suit, oh, well.

Bob Fisk 2♠ I hate to say "always," but I'll give it a try. You should always return to 2M on the auction 1M-1NT; 2m with two-card support for partner's major and 4-card support for partner's minor. The moment I say this, someone will claim that they took two extra tricks in the minor contract one time when partner was 5-5 in their two suits, so there. Sigh.

Steve Moese 2♠ For two reasons. 1) Opener might have only 3 diamonds, and 2) a 5-2 fit in spades will often play better (and score better).

Mike Ma  $2 \spadesuit$  If  $2 \spadesuit$  only shows 3+ (1NT forcing), then of course we bid  $2 \spadesuit$ , which is what my vote is for. The more complicated question is what to do if  $2 \spadesuit = 4+$ . With only 6 points, I would prefer to play in known 8-card fit instead of 7, especially in IMPs, but even in MP. However, there is the issue of what opponents will do. With only 4 cards max in hearts and clubs in opener's hand, opponents will have at least one 8+ fit. Will west let you play in  $2 \spadesuit$  if you pass? The flip side of that is if you always spare them the tough decision, you are making life easy for them. So my decision will depend on who the opponents are and how well they balance.





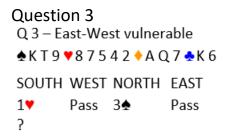
Bob Jones 3♦ Breaking the three level requires a "little" extra. This hand has it. Bid 3♦.

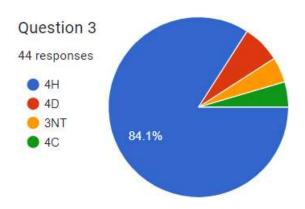
Steve Vogel <u>3</u> • After a 2/1 bid, rebidding at the three level shows extra strength and/or extra shape. In this case, I have both.

Joe Muenks <u>3</u> Generally it is best to play that 3 ♦ shows extra length or strength when playing standard. Here our 5-5 will do. Playing 2/1 I'll generally bid out my hand until the suit is set whether minimum or maximum.

Bob Fisk <u>3</u> Extra shape or extra values (this time you have both). You don't want to rebid 3 with a hand that looks like this: AKxxx Kx Jxxx Jx. Ick. Hands such as this one are why I play that "a rebid of opener's major in a 2/1 auction shows exactly five cards in the suit with no better bid, and a rebid of 2NT in a 2/1 auction shows 6+ cards in opener's major." This works extremely well allowing opener to simply rebid 2♠ with the nasty hand I showed above. 100% on this one?

Steve Moese <u>3</u>♦ For most, 2♥ is a Game Force. No reason not to bid our shape now. Even playing Standard American, this hand is worth 3♦ - extras because of shape and strength.





Bob Jones  $4 \checkmark$  You have no interest in slam opposite spade shortness. Do not cue bid, but rather bid  $4 \checkmark$ .

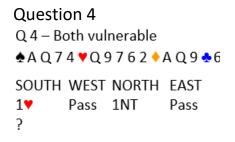
Steve Vogel 4♥ I have good outside controls, but my heart suit is as bad as it could be. In addition, the King of spades is likely wasted. Accordingly, I will tell partner that their spade shortness does not excite me by bidding 4♥. If partner has an appropriate hand, my 4♥ bid does not keep them from moving on.

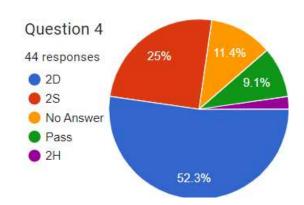
Joe Muenks 4 Our K♠ appears wasted, and I play that a splinter is always 11-15 HCP, so if partner fills in the missing trump honors, there's just not enough left to make slam a good proposition. If partner's hand is freakish enough, they can bid on.

Bob Fisk <u>3NT</u> Showing wasted values in spades and allowing partner to make the next move. If partner makes a control bid after your my-hand-sucks 3NT bid, you'll happily play along. Partner needs a pretty amazing hand for 6♥ to make--perhaps x AKxxx Kxxx Axx, but partner isn't going to pass 3NT with that hand.

Steve Moese 4♥ We have the bare minimum for our opening bid and a poor heart suit. Not to mention our ♠K is now virtually worthless. (Even if you are familiar with advanced control bidding measures like serious/frivolous 3NT, this hand is too poor for even that choice. Divide your opening hands into three ranges: No extras, no interest; Some extras, will cooperate if you want to explore; Extras, slam interest).

See: <a href="https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/fast-arrival-and-seriousfrivolous-3nt/">https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/fast-arrival-and-seriousfrivolous-3nt/</a> For more insight.





Bob Jones 2 of 1NT is not forcing, pass. If it is, bid 2 of . Do not bid 2 of . Do not bid 2 of .

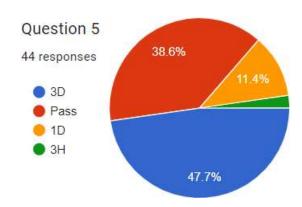
Steve Vogel 2 ◆ I do not have enough strength to make a reverse, so my best rebid is 2 ◆.

Joe Muenks 2 Yuck. Playing standard I'll pass, though it is uncomfortable. Playing 2/1 I'll risk that 2 will deliver 2 hearts in partner's hand, though this is not a safe bid.

Steve Moese 2 We have a convenient 3 card suit to bid so we do so. 2♠ requires either 5 spades and 6 hearts or a very strong hand (at least an ace more than we have here).

Mike Ma 2 ◆ Assuming forcing NT, you have no choice in this matter. You are happy you don't have 4=5=2=2 (which is why you should not open light with that shape playing forcing NT and NOT playing Flannery) or that you have 1-3 more points and can't open 1NT because of the small singleton.

Question 5 Q5 – North-South vulnerable ♠Q763 ♥J ♦ KQT9764 ♣8 SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST ?



Bob Jones  $3 \stackrel{\bullet}{\bullet}$  Don't pass up the chance to pre-empt because of the mangy spade suit. Open  $3 \stackrel{\bullet}{\bullet}$ .

Steve Vogel <u>3</u>◆ "Back in the day," it was heresy to open a preempt with a side 4-card major, especially spades. These days, if the hand shape and suit strength dictate a preempt, it is done with no regret- definitely in 3rd seat, and now in 1st seat. I must admit, I have some reservations, but I would go with 3♦ on this hand.

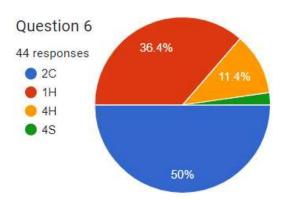
Joe Muenks <u>Pass</u> I'm old-fashioned and will not preempt partner in 1<sup>st</sup> seat with such great support and length in spades. It is possible I'll come back into the auction even if partner is the weak one here.

Bob Fisk Pass The auction isn't over. If you open 3♦, I pray your partner holds AKTxx xxxx J Axx. If you open 1♦, I pray your partner holds Kx KQT976 x QJxx. Heh both ways.

Steve Moese <u>Pass</u> Discipline in first and second seats, especially when vulnerable is important to good bidding. Here we have a hand that could play very well in spades. Partner will never expect 4-card support. Pass and await developments. Besides, unfavorable vulnerability is the worst time to preempt opponents.

Mike Ma  $3 \\cup$  This one is tough. Your diamond suit is good enough for preempt in this vulnerability, you should respect Rule of 2/3/4, so you should be 2 tricks off your contract. If you assume you get 6 diamond tricks, and the spade suit is worth one trick, your hand qualifies (barely?). You have Hxxx in spades, which is a defect. So you have 1½ defects for  $3 \\cup$ , so borderline. If the delta Q is delta K, I would pass.





Bob Jones 1♥ Players love to open 2♣, and many would with this hand. Most experts would not. Open 1♥.

Steve Vogel  $\underline{1}$  This hand does not have the high card strength for a  $2\frac{1}{2}$  opener, even with only 4 losers. Over any one-level response by partner, my plan is to rebid 4. If partner makes a 2/1 response, I will rebid 3 setting trump and asking for controls. Yes, I will occasionally get passed out in 1 when game is on, but more often, we will land in the right spot.

Joe Muenks 2 I struggle with the rules that accompany the new convention card, which I believe make opening this 2 a pre-alert, but I've never pre-alerted anything.

Regardless I have enough tricks in hand to go -1 in 4 , which meets my criteria for opening 2 as recorded on my card.

Bob Fisk 2♣ For those who think a 2♣ opener shows 22+ HCP, I'll once again correct them. 2♣ shows 22+ HCP when opener has a BALANCED hand. With extra shape, opener can have fewer HCP. A 2♣ opener, with fewer points, should be a hand that (1) has four or fewer losers, (2) has 4+ quick tricks on defense, and (3) can't reasonably be opened any other way. The above hand qualifies for all three. If you open 1♥ with this hand and everybody passes, you'll give up the bridge (I would).

Steve Moese 1 Yes we run a small risk that partner has one good cover card and we can make game in hearts. However, we can jump shift next in clubs (a 3 rebid understates this hand too much) to force game when partner responds. Partner will know what cards are working. Some will open 2 and rebid hearts twice - good for getting to game, bad for staying in a partial or getting to a magic fit slam.

Mike Ma 2♣ With less than 20 points, you have to have game -1 or better to open 2♣ assuming nothing from partner and even breaks in suits. Your hand qualifies (9 tricks in hearts or NT). Opening 2♣ causes no rebidding problem or complication for you no matter what partner does. That is the important consideration when deciding to open 2♣ with <20 points. Opening single suited hand 2♣ works well. If you open 1♥ and your LHO bids 3♦ e.g., you won't like it.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Bob Jones	2♠	3♦	4♥	2	3♦	1
Steve Vogel	2♠	3♦	4♥	2	3♦	1
Joe Muenks	2♠	3♦	4♥	2♥	Pass	2
Bob Fisk	2♠	3♦	3NT	2	Pass	2 🙏
Steve Moese	2♠	3♦	4♥	2	Pass	1
Al Venosa	Pass	3♦	4♥	N/A	3♦	1
AnnR	2♠	3♦	4♥	2	3	2
Bob K	Pass	3	4♥	2♠	3	2
Carl Willig	3	3♦	4	2	3♦	2
Carol Wilson	2♠	3	4♥	2 🖢	3	2
Cathy W	2♠	3	4♥	2	Pass	2
Chuck	Pass	3	4♥	2♠	1 🔷	4
Darleen	Pass	3	4 🗸	2♠	3	4
Dave	2♠	3	4	2	1 0	24
Dean Congbalay	Pass	3	4 🗸	2	Pass	2
Doug Edwards	2♠	3∳	4 🗸	2	3	2
Ed	Pass	3♦	4 🗸	2♠	3	2
Gary Herrington	2♠	3	4 🗸	2	Pass	2
Greg	Pass	3♦	4 🗸	2	3	1
James D	2♠	3♦	4 🗸	2	3	2
James Jacobson	Pass	3	4 🗸			4
Jay Gala	Pass			2 <b>♠</b> 2 <b>♦</b>	3 <del>\</del> Pass	
Jim Barrett	Pass	3 😓	4	Pass	Pass	2
		3	4 🗸		_	2
JohnMcQ	2 <b>♠</b> Pass	3	4 🗸	2	Pass	1
Jon Hoak		3	4 💙	2	3♥	1
Jusie Clendening	Pass	3	4 🗸	2♠	3	44
Kevin C.	2♠	3	4 🗸	N/A	1 🕈	2
Kevin H.	2♠	3	4 🗸	2	Pass	1
Lanny	Pass	3	4 😓	2	Pass	1
Linda	Pass	3	4 🗸	N/A	Pass	2
Melissa	Pass	3♦	4♥	Pass	Pass	1
Mike Ma	2♠	3♦	4♥	2	3	2
Mónica	Pass	3♦	4&	2	Pass	1
Nell Wickstrom	Pass	3♦	4♥	N/A	3♦	1
Nowacki,Robert	2♠	2♠	4♥	2♠	3♦	4
Pam Campbell	2♠	3♦	3NT	N/A	Pass	1
Pete Outcalt	2♠	3♦	4♥	2	Pass	1
Phyllis	Pass	3∳	4♥	2	Pass	2
Rick Read	3♦	3♦	4♥	2♠	3♦	4
Rod	2♠	3♦	4♥	Pass	1 🔷	1
Steve Messinger	Pass	3♦	4♥	2♠	3♦	1
Sue	Pass	3♦	4♥	2♠	1 🔷	2
Zigang Pan	Pass	3♦	4♥	Pass	3♦	2
	2♠	3♦	4♥	2	3	2

