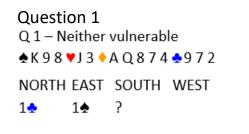
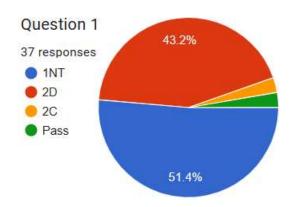
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Q 2 - North-South vulnerable
Goren on Bridge: Weekly bridge quiz
GOREN BRIDGE JANUARY 13, 2024
                                        ♠ A K Q 7 ♥ A 9 6 ♦ 6 ♣ K Q J 7 5
Q 1 - Neither vulnerable
                                        SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
★K98♥J3♦AQ874♣972
                                         1.
                                               Pass Pass
                                                             1NT
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
                                         ?
            ?
1.
      1♠
                                        What call would you make?
What call would you make?
                                         Q 4 – Both vulnerable
Q 3 – East-West vulnerable
♠6♥T865♦65♣AKJT63
                                         ♦ Void ♥Q 9 7 6 4 3 ♦ T 3 ♣ K Q T 7 4
                                         NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
                                                Р
                                                      ?
                                         1♠
            ?
2♥
       Р
                                         What call would you make?
What call would you make?
Q 5 – North-South vulnerable
                                         Q 6 - East-West vulnerable
♠AJ96♥7♦9762♣Q973
                                         ♠K7♥AK96♦QJ64♣875
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
                                         SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1.
       Pass 1♠
                    Pass
                                         1
                                                2 😓
                                                     Dbl*
                                                             3NT
1NT
       Pass ?
                                         *Negative
What call would you make?
                                         What call would you make?
                                         Look for answers on Monday.
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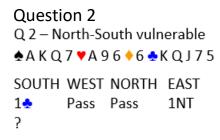
Bob Jones <u>1NT</u> 2 would not be the worst bid in the world, but we think 1NT is a better description. Bid 1NT.

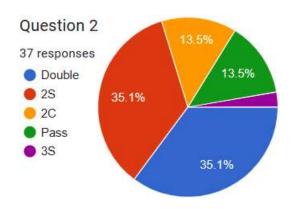
Steve Vogel <u>1NT</u> My top choices are 1NT and 2. In making the decision, I should consider how the bidding might proceed if West passes or supports spades. I believe I have reasonable rebids in either case. In that case, I believe that 1NT is a better choice given my balanced distribution. If I had a singleton, I would choose instead to bid 2.

Joe Muenks <u>1NT</u> I'll go for a good matchpoint result. 2♦ has advantages of offering lead direction and showing the full 10 points but announcing a stopper in their suit early might prove useful to partner later.

Steve Moese <u>1NT</u> We have 10 HCP and a stopper. If my diamonds were hearts, I'd bid 2♥ here instead. However NT scores better than a minor suit. 1NT also lets partner know we have no future in Hearts. A 1NT freebid is 8-11 HCP, not 6-9. If partner invites, we accept game.

Mike Ma <u>1NT</u> If my hearts were xx, I would bid 1NT (only 9 points). The ♥J should encourage, not discourage bidding NT.





Bob Jones $\underline{\mathbf{X}}$ Double. You'll be well placed unless partner bids $2 \blacklozenge$. Then you will have to bid again. Should everyone pass, lead the king of clubs. You should have a good chance to beat it.

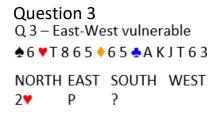
Steve Vogel X I have a strong hand and I am not willing to sell out to a balancing 1NT bid. If partner responds 2♦, I will bid 2♠ which should describe my hand well to partner (4-3-1-5 with a strong hand). I might occasionally get too high, but more often, I would expect to find a good landing spot.

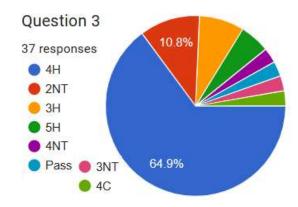
Joe Muenks Pass I would double for penalties but here I play that is 17+ and generally takeout... partner gearing up to bid 2, of course.

Bob Fisk 2 Don't let your annoying opponents get the better of you--bid your hand! Picture partner with xxxx xx xxxx xxx. You lose no spade tricks, one heart, one diamonds, and one club, making four if your opponents forget to tap you with multiple diamond leads.

Steve Moese $2 \triangleq$ Let's give partner a choice between the black suits. We were ready to Jump shift next, so we are also showing great strength or distribution. 1NT in the balancing seat is 11-14/6. That leaves 4-10 HCP between West and North. If they bid over $2 \triangleq$, we double. If partner bids, we pass (but will accept a raise to $4 \triangleq$). Give partner xxxxx xx xxxx xx and we are favorites to make a spade game. Try it.

Mike Ma $\underline{\mathbf{X}}$ Make them pay. However, you and your partner must know what you are doing if they run.





Bob Jones 4♣ Bid 4♣, showing a raise to 4♥ based on a long, strong, side suit. Partner should be well placed if they compete.

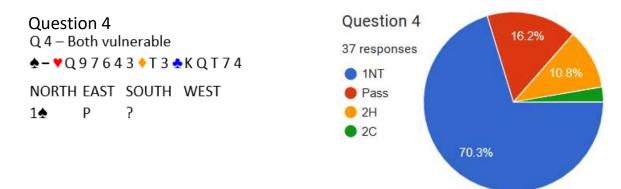
Steve Vogel 5♥ We have a heart fit and the opponents have a spade fit. The question is whether to bid 4♥ or 5♥. At this vulnerability, partner could have anything, so it is a guessing game. More often than not, 4♠ will make and 5♥ will go down less than the value of their game. I would tend to be aggressive and bid 5♥ with this hand and put as much pressure on West as possible.

Joe Muenks 4^{\bullet} Bid the 4 level with our known 10 trump. I think you might make this if they don't find their 4^{\bullet} sacrifice.

Bob Fisk $\underline{4}$ When you can count ten trump (in a major) between your hand and partner's, be in game (at a minimum). Sometimes you're making, and sometimes you have an excellent sacrifice. If partner holds xxx AKxxxx xxx x, you're making 4, and your opponents are down one in 4. If partner holds xxx KQJxxx Qx xx, you aren't making, but your opponents now make 5 losing only two club tricks (as long as partner figures out to lead a club).

Steve Moese 4♥ A law of total tricks raise. We have 10 trumps and a source of tricks. Since east could not act, we will put maximum pressure on West. While we could off 3♣ (forcing) that leaves West with great space to decide strain an level. No, bid the 10 trick contract right away. Many play 4♣ as Preempt Keycard Blackwood.

Mike Ma $\underline{5} \checkmark$ Before bidding, you need to prepare for what may happen later. The chance of them not having 9+ spades is very low, and if 8 only, should have the top 3 if not all 4 honors. You want partner to lead a club. At the same time you do not want to give opps an easy time bidding their hands by bidding $3 \overset{\bullet}{\sim}$ or $4 \overset{\bullet}{\vee}$ and then $5 \overset{\bullet}{\sim}$ over their $4 \overset{\bullet}{\sim}$. If you are not willing to bid beyond $4 \overset{\bullet}{\sim}$, then maybe you should consider $3 \overset{\bullet}{\sim}$ or $4 \overset{\bullet}{\sim}$ (if your system allows that instead of Preempt key card). Of course, you can also consider shenanigans like $2 \overset{\bullet}{\sim}$, 2NT or $4 \overset{\bullet}{\sim}$ (preempt $\overset{\bullet}{\sim}$ K), but that is not my style. If they get to $6 \overset{\bullet}{\sim}$ and partner is on lead, I will make a Lightner X and hope.



Bob Jones <u>1NT</u> It seems silly, but you have to bid 1NT. You should get another chance to bid.

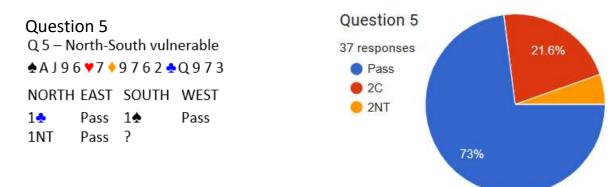
Steve Vogel <u>1NT</u> I can come up with no reasonable alternative to 1NT. The one rebid I hope not to hear is 3♠ (which I will pass), but over just about anything else, we should be able to find a good landing spot.

Joe Muenks <u>1NT</u> In standard or 2/1, but this hand you much prefer to be playing a forcing NT, eh?

Bob Fisk 1NT (Forcing). I'd love to bid 2♥ right now, but partner will think I have a stronger hand, and we'd literally (i.e., figuratively) go down a billion if partner holds KJT9xxx x AKxx x.

Steve Moese <u>1NT</u> We have values but not enough strength for a 2/1 bid in either Standard American or 2/1 GF. We will show hearts next if partner rebids spades or diamonds. If they rebid clubs, we can rebid hearts and if partner adjusts to 2♠, we can raise clubs, showing our approximate shape. By the way, if you play preemptive jump shifts after a 1 Major opening bid, 1NT (forcing) then 3 of a suit shows invitational values. I like 1M - J/S to 3 of a suit under M to be natural, nonforcing, no fit (at best 2 M Cards). This unburdens 1NT forcing and avoids the weakness in weak jump shifts - the wrong (weak) hand declares (eliminating any positional defense against the opening lead, and putting the majority of our assets for all to see in dummy).

Mike Ma INT Forcing. I am too good to pass. The one rebid by opener I can't stand is 2♠ or alas 3/4♠. Anything else is fine. I'll take the risk and if partner rebids hearts, wow!



Bob Jones $2 \stackrel{\bullet}{\sim}$ At rubber bridge, bid $2 \stackrel{\bullet}{\sim}$. In a pairs competition, it is close between pass and $2 \stackrel{\bullet}{\sim}$, but we still like $2 \stackrel{\bullet}{\sim}$.

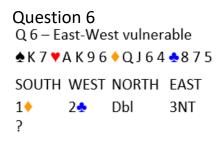
Steve Vogel 2NT (XYZ) I cannot bid 2♣ natural because my partners and I play XYZ. Partner is marked with 4+ clubs unless he/she is 3-4-3-3, so if I want to play in clubs it will need to be at the 3-level (by bidding 2NT, which asks partner to rebid 3♣). It's a close call, and I honestly do not know if the odds favor 3♣ or 1NT. Given my diamond weakness, and expecting partner to be short there, I would choose to play in 3♣.

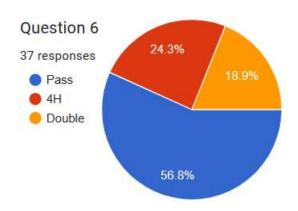
Joe Muenks Pass No need to be a hero here. And so many of us play so there's no way to get out at 2♣ anyway.

Bob Fisk Pass Bidding again is silly, since partner might very well hold xx AKQJ Axx xxxx. If partner has fewer than four hearts, so be it--we're still in the right contract. Luckily, you play XYZ, so you can't play in 2- anyway. Heh.

Steve Moese <u>Pass</u> With the advent of New Minor Forcing (or it's younger cousin on steroids - XYZ) the rebid of 2♣ as natural no longer exists. Even if we could rebid 2♣ natural to play, why would we? NT scores so much better.

Mike Ma Pass Even if I can sign off in 2♣, which I can't playing XYZ, I won't try. Opps have been silent, so partner quite likely has 4 hearts.





Bob Jones <u>Pass</u> That heart suit may be calling you, but this hand is not nearly strong enough to bid again. Pass.

Steve Vogel 4 Given the vulnerable bids of both opponents, I believe my partner's negative double to be based more on distribution than strength. Accordingly, the opponents will probably make 3NT (think 6 clubs, and 3 tricks scattered over the other 3 suits). With my major suit strength, I will choose to bid 4 , expecting to make or go down 2 at most.

Joe Muenks <u>Pass</u> Whereas you really want partner to know about your 4 hearts, you simply do not have a hand that can trot out 4.

Bob Fisk 4♥ You should believe your vulnerable opponents on this hand (i.e., you aren't beating 3NT, since E/W likely have six club tricks, two diamonds, and a spade). 4♥, doubled down two, will be a good sacrifice. If anybody is light for their bid, it's your partner (they're cray cray).

Steve Moese X Pass is my second alternative. However partner shows 8+ HCP and ONE 4-CARD MAJOR. Bidding 4♥ might well find us at game in a 4-2 or 4-3 fit. Double is flexible here - we show the balance of power so partner can pass for penalties, or bid Majors up the line if they prefer to declare. We will lead the ♥A and see what dummy and partner have to say. Pass might be best if opponents have 6 clubs and 3 outside tricks off the top (or 7+2) but that seems unlikely given the bidding.

Mike Ma Pass At our club, people routinely overcall at 2 level with 5. But even outsdie the 2♣ overcall to 1♦ may not be so rigorous, Their 3NT should be based on a club fit, but they may only have 5 club tricks, not 6+. I'll take the chance and defend. Partner's X does not guarantee 4-4 majors, and even if it does, bidding 4♥ is pretty unilateral. Partner has a bid coming if she has good hand (X) or 5-5 M (4♣) or whatever.

		1	2	3	4	5	6
	Bob Jones	1NT	Х	40	1NT	2 😓	Pass
	Steve Vogel	1NT	Х	5♥	1NT	2NT	4♥
-	Joe Muenks	1NT	Pass	4 Y	1NT	Pass	Pass
,	Joe Muenks	1NT	Pass	4♥	1NT	Pass	Pass
-	Bob Fisk	2	2♠	4♥	1NT	Pass	4♥
	Steve Moese	1NT	2♠	4♥	1NT	Pass	Х
	Al Venosa	Pass	Х	4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	AnnR	1NT	2♠	4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	Carl Willig	2	Х	2NT	1NT	2 💠	4♥
	Carol Wilson	2	3♠	4♥	1NT	Pass	Pass
	Chuck	2	24	4NT	2♥	2 💠	4♥
	Dave	1NT	24	4♥	1NT	2 💠	4♥
	Dean Congbalay	1NT	Pass	4♥	1NT	2 😓	Pass
	Doug Edwards	1NT	2♣	3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	Ed	1NT	Х	4♥	2♣	Pass	Pass
	Gary Herrington	2•	2♣	4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	Greg	2	2♠	2NT	1NT	2 🙏	Pass
	James D	1NT	Χ	4♥	1NT	Pass	Х
	James Jacobson	1NT	Χ	4♥	1NT	Pass	Pass
	Jay Gala	2	2♠	3♥	1NT	Pass	Х
	Jim Barrett	1NT	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	JohnMcQ	2	2♠	4♥	1NT	Pass	4♥
	Kevin C.	1NT	2♠	4♥	1NT	Pass	4♥
	Kevin H.	2	2♠	3NT	1NT	Pass	Pass
	Lanny	2	Х	4♥	1NT	2 💠	Х
	Linda	1NT	2♠	4♥	1NT	2 💠	Pass
	Melissa	1NT	2♠	3♥	2♥	Pass	Χ
	Mike Burns	2	2♣	2NT	1NT	Pass	Pass
	Mike Ma	1NT	Χ	5♥	1NT	Pass	Pass
	Nell Wickstrom	1NT	2♠	4♥	1NT	2NT	4♥
	Pete Outcalt	2	Х	4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	Phyllis	2	Χ	4♥	1NT	Pass	Χ
	Rick Read	2♣	Χ	4♥	2♥	Pass	4♥
	Robert N.	1NT	Pass	4♥	1NT	Pass	Pass
	Rod	2	Х	4♥	2♥	Pass	Х
	Sue	2	2♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
	Zigang Pan	1NT	Pass	2NT	1NT	Pass	Pass
L						Pass	Pass

