Goren on Bridge: Weekly bridge quiz GOREN BRIDGE MARCH 18, 2023 Q1 – Neither vulnerable

4Q J ♥J 7 ♦K T 9 **4**A J 8 7 5 4

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass 3♣ Pass 3♦ Pass 3♥ Pass

3♠ Pass ?

What call would you make?

Q 3 – East-West vulnerable

♠J♥J8♦K74♣AKJT984

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

3♠ 4♥ ?

What call would you make?

Q 5 – North-South vulnerable

♠3 ♥Q J T 5 ♦A 8 7 5 3 ♣K 4 2

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♣ Pass 1♦ Pass

2♠ Pass ?

What call would you make?

Q 2 – North-South vulnerable

♠Q T 7 6 4 **♥**Q 7 **♦**A K 6 **♣**A 9 6

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST 2♥* P ?

*weak

What call would you make?

Q4 - Both vulnerable

♠A 8 ♥A Q J 6 4 ♦K **♣**K T 9 8 3

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass

1♠ Pass ?

What call would you make?

Q 6 – East-West vulnerable

♠K Q J **♥**K T 8 6 **♦**A K 7 5 **♣**Q 7

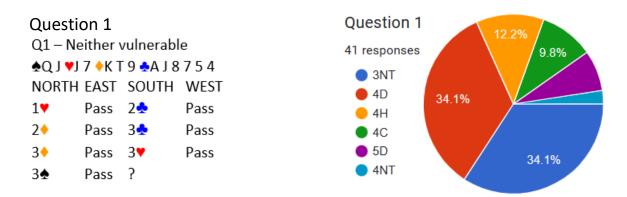
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

2♥* P ?

*weak

What call would you make?

Look for answers on Monday.



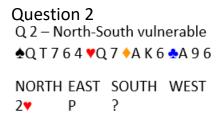
Bob Jones 4♦ Partner is making a slam try and your hand has some useful features. You have already shown a doubleton heart. Show something else. Bid 4♦.

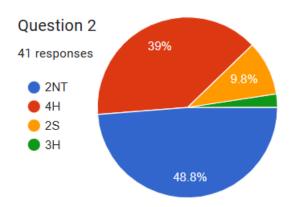
Steve Vogel 4 ◆ Partner has shown a two-suited hand with possible interest in slam, if not looking for a spade stopper. Of greatest importance is showing help for partner's second suit.

Joe Muenks 4 In standard 2 was only 10+, you are max for 3, partner is showing a huge hand and has accepted hearts as trump and needs to hear about your ace. In 2/1, we also show our ace now in order to cooperate, particularly since that diamond holding is a huge asset.

Bob Fisk 4. Partner is either making a last-train bid to see if I have a Spade stopper for notrump (picture partner with xx AKxxx AQJxx x) or is bidding a 1st or 2nd round control in order to get to slam (picture partner with A AKQxx AQxxx xx). I don't have a full Spade stopper, so no 3NT bid from me, so I'll bid 4. to show my Club control.

Steve Moese 4 → Experts will bid 3NT with a spade stop, not 3 ♠. 3 ♠ here says either "I need a spade stop for 3NT" or "I am interested in slam in one of my suits." Our Spade QJ is not a stopper (imagine partner with 5-5 in the red suits - something like xx AK10xx AQJxx x. 5 ♦ is our best spot, but if partner is stronger 6 ♦ will have plays. Requires partner's 3 ♠ bid to be showing a control for slam purposes - a third possible meaning). For those who bid 3NT, 1) I admire your ability to take risks, and 2) you might be disappointed if you end up in the wrong contract/level.





Bob Jones **2NT** This hand is worth an invitation, just barely. Bid 2NT.

Steve Vogel 4 Many possible holdings for partner's weak two bid at unfavorable vulnerability should give us reasonable play for game.

Joe Muenks <u>2NT</u> Promise heart support and ask about partner's hand through feature or OGUST or whatever your poison is. Playing expert bid 3♣ asking for shortness and follow 3♠ with 4♣ to show 2 slam tries but sign off in game with any other reply.

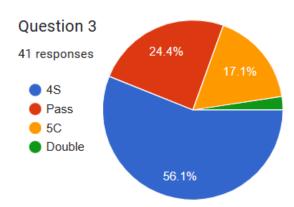
Bob Fisk 2♠ (Forcing). With my partners I play that partner will raise to 3♠ w/ three and a bad hand, 4♠ w/ three and a good hand w/ no shortness, splinter into 4m w/ 3-6-1/3 shape, 2NT w/ two-card Spade support, bid a side-suit Ace or King w/ Spade shortness and a good hand, or bid 3♥ w/ Spade shortness and bad hand. I expect we'll be in 4♠ if partner has 3-card support or 4♥ if partner doesn't. Is it possible that partner holds KJx AKxxxx xx xx? Yes, but that's playing partner for magic cards (a definite no-no).

Steve Moese **2NT** Either Ogust or Feature. Opposite a maximum weak two we want to be in game. Don't let the diaphanous* spade suit mislead your bidding. Partner can't possibly have enough in spades to make that a better suit for our contract than hearts. If they do we have to talk about what weak two bids are.

Mel Colchamiro in his landmark book How You Can Play Like an Expert (2007-05-03) discusses a number of decision guides. One for this situation is the "Rule of 17" if the HCP plus the length of your trumps total 17 or more, then it's worth investigating game in partner's weak two strain. Here we have 15 + 2 so we ask.

^{* (}especially of fabric) light, delicate, and translucent: "a diaphanous dress of pale gold" I had to look it up.





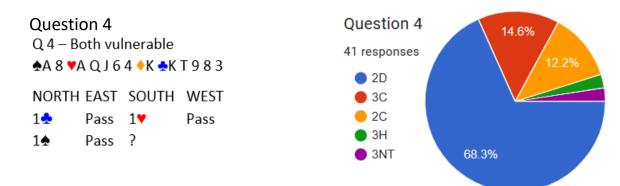
Bob Jones <u>Pass</u> Bidding anything might negate the good work done by your partner's pre-empt. Pass.

Steve Vogel Pass This is a situation where you cannot know the winning action with any level of certainty. Depending upon partner's hand, it could be right to sacrifice, either in spades or clubs, or it could be best to defend and set the opponents. If partner has the ♠A, we will likely set the opponents. Otherwise, it is probably close to an even chance. When there is a reasonable chance of setting the opponents, I prefer not to sacrifice. Doubling is an interesting thought, but I will pass on that (pun intended).

Joe Muenks $\underline{4}$ Seems we don't have any idea if we can make game or if they can make game or neither. I'll take out insurance they're making. If we were certain they were going to bid 5 we could bid 5 to indicate the lead but 4 might make so we shouldn't get too aggressive.

Bob Fisk $\underline{4} \triangleq$ While it's certainly possible that partner has the \triangle A and I'm getting a Spade ruff, cashing my two Club winners, and getting the \triangle K in the wash, but it's just as likely that I'm getting only one of those potential five tricks (picture partner with KQTxxxx xx xx Qx and my RHO with Axx AKQxxx QJT x). I'll bid $4 \triangleq$ and hope they push on to $5 \checkmark$ (they will if my LHO holds x xxx Axxxxx xxx).

Steve Moese <u>Pass</u> Partner has told you that they have spades and not much else outside. They might even have only 6 cards in their suit. Thinking about bidding 5 is an overbid. Let the opponents struggle with the right level for their contract. We do not hold enough to make a penalty double. There is no guarantee that partner holds the spade A. (Partner is likely short in clubs).



Bob Jones 2 delight away would only be invitational. Bid 2 delight, fourth suit forcing. Your subsequent 3 delight will then be forcing.

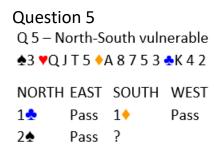
Steve Vogel 3. (XYZ) Playing the full component of XYZ, a three-level bid following 3 one-level bids is slammish, and typically denies shortness. I tend not to show singletons Aces and Kings with shortness bids, so I would choose to bid 3. (instead of rebidding 2NT, then showing diamond shortness with 3.).

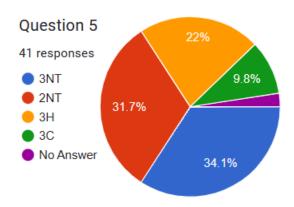
Joe Muenks $2 \leftarrow$ The 4th suit by responder is forcing in standard or conventional bridge either to game or one round, so bide time with this bid so partner has an opportunity to support hearts. If not you're likely heading to $6 \stackrel{\bullet}{\sim}$.

Bob Fisk 2 (XYZ). My 2 bid is artificial and forcing to game. Partner will show me 3-card Heart support, bid 2NT w/ a balanced hand, or show extra length in a previously bid suit. If partner bids 2 , I'll bid 3 to confirm Hearts and leave room for control bidding for slam. If partner bids anything else, I'll try for a slam in Clubs. Picture partner with 4-1-3-5 shape holding Kxxx x AQx Axxxx making 7 . Heh.

Steve Moese $2 \\le \\mathbb{O}$ Much depends on your agreements. Assume you do not play XYZ here, then $2 \\le \\mathbb{O}$ is 4th suit forcing (to game, please). You intend to rebid clubs later to suggest 5-5. If you do play XYZ, $2 \\le \\mathbb{O}$ is better than 2NT or $3 \\le \\mathbb{O}$. 2NT is used to show a hand that wants to play in $3 \\le \\mathbb{O}$ (transfer) or that has a GF in hearts and clubs. However that GF is limited to 4 hearts and 5+ clubs or 5 hearts and 4 clubs. With 5-5, we either bid $2 \\le \\mathbb{O}$ (as here) or $3 \\le \\mathbb{O}$. $2 \\le \\mathbb{O}$ shows strength for game but some wasted values. $3 \\le \\mathbb{O}$ shows a pure 5-5 with slam interest. Purity means all strength is both prime (A/K, or HH(H) combinations) and working and there are no singleton Q/K or doubleton Qx.

Compare A8 AQJ64 K K10983 to A8 AQJ64 4 AQ1098 - the second hand is pure and has only 4 losers not 5. Note: singleton and doubleton aces are not impurities). For more on XYZ see Gavin Wolpert's seminal article: https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/two-way-new-minor-forcing-aka-xynt/





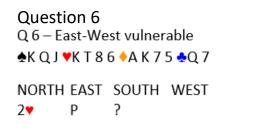
Bob Jones 3♣ 3NT can wait. First, show your fit for partner. Bid 3♣.

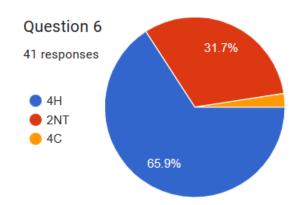
Steve Vogel <u>2NT</u> My partners and I play that 2NT in this sequence followed by 3NT shows 8-11 points (versus jumping to 3NT which shows 12-14).

Joe Muenks $3 \checkmark$ Now that partner put a game force in, finish showing your hand (3 \checkmark shows 4 hearts and 10+ points normally...note with a poor/single bid hand we bid $1 \checkmark$ directly over $1 \diamondsuit$. Recall partner's failure to bid 2NT means they are unbalanced so we still have no idea what the best contract will be, though $6 \diamondsuit$ or $6 \diamondsuit$ feels most likely.

Bob Fisk N/A I would have bid 1♥ over 1♣ w/ a 4-card major and less than gamegoing values.

Steve Moese 3.5 Support with support. Unlike a reverse (some play lighter than a jump shift), 2NT is NOT Lebensohl. Here 2NT should show a balanced hand and suggest a strain implying 2 spade cards and the inability to raise clubs. 2NT is not unreasonable here, but the spade singleton might be useful in a club slam auction. Start with 3.5 - see where partner wants to go. We are in a game force. (Note, we expect partner to be 4 spades and 5+ clubs on the bidding so far, but 4=(14)=4 is possible (either red suit a singleton).





Bob Jones $\underline{4}\underline{\lor}$ Had partner opened $1\underline{\lor}$, you would rightfully be thinking of slam. He opened $2\underline{\lor}$, however, so just settle for game. Bid $4\underline{\lor}$.

Steve Vogel 4♥ I see little chance for slam even if partner is maximum. Best to bid 4♥ directly without giving the opponents more information.

Joe Muenks **2NT** Start by asking partner about their hand and go from there. If you frequently have an "off ace" for your preempts, the modern style, slam is still a possibility. You'll cue the •A next if partner admits to a good hand and that will announce club control concerns.

Bob Fisk 2NT (Modified Ogust). While it's certainly possible to bid 4♥ over 2♥, I like to bid 2NT to claim ownership of the hand. If the opponents compete to 4♠ and I double, it's nice to know that partner won't panic and pull to 5♥ thinking I'm weak (we've all done it). If you're thinking about slam, give partner all of the cards necessary to make seven and then take one card away. Ax Axxxxx xx AKx minus one card. That's too much.

Steve Moese <u>4*</u> Confident partner has good plays for game even with a minimum weak 2 opening. There is no slam in these cards because we never open a weak two bid with two aces.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Bob Jones	4	2NT	Pass	2	30	4♥
Steve Vogel	4	4♥	Pass	3😓	2NT	4♥
loo Muonks	4.	2NT	4 🛦	0.4	2 **	2NT
Joe Muenks	4♣	ZINI	4♠	2•	3♥	ZIVI
Bob Fisk	4♣	2♠	4♠	2	N/A	2NT
Steve Moese	4	2NT	Pass	2	30	4♥
BF: If anyone knows anybody who knows anybody that would like to host a Bridge-playing foreign exchange student (high-school young man) from Bulgaria for a year, let me (Bob F.) know. I'll post more information at the CBC. :o)						
Al Venosa	4	2♠	5♣	2	2NT	2NT
AnnR	4♥	2NT	4♠	2•	3♥	4♥
Bob K	4	2NT	4♠	2	3♥	4♥
Carl Willig	5	2NT	4♠	3😓	3♥	4♥
Carol Wilson	4	4♥	5♣	2	2NT	4♥
Cathy W	4♥	4♥	4♠	3♣	3♥	4♥
Chuck	3NT	4♥	4♠	2 😓	2NT	4♥
Dave	3NT	2NT	4♠	2	2NT	4♥
Dean Congbalay	3NT	2♠	4♠	2	3♥	4♥
Ed	3NT	4♥	Pass	200	2NT	4♥
Gary Busch	4	2NT	5 	300	3NT	2NT
Gary Herrington	3NT	3♥	Χ	2	3♥	2NT
Greg	4😓	2NT	4♠	2	2NT	4♥
James D	4♥	2NT	5♣	2	2NT	4♥
James Jacobson	3NT	4♥	4♠	2 😓	2NT	4♥
Jay Gala	3NT	4♥	4♠	2	3NT	4♥
Jim Barrett	3NT	2NT	4♠	2	3NT	2NT
JohnMcQ	3NT	2NT	4♠	200	3♥	4♥
Jon Hoak	3NT	2NT	Pass	2	3NT	4♥
Jusie Clendening	3NT	2NT	5♣	3😓	3NT	4♥
Kevin C.	4	2NT	Pass	2	2NT	2NT
Kevin H.	4	4♥	5♣	3😓	3😓	2NT
Linda	4	4♥	5♣	2	3NT	4♥
Liz	4	2NT	4♠	3NT	2NT	2NT
Mike Burns	4😓	4♥	4♠	2	3♣	4♥
Pam Campbell	5♦	2♠	4♠	2	3NT	2NT
Pete Outcalt	4	4♥	Pass	2	2NT	4♣
Phyllis	4♥	2NT	4♠	2	3NT	2NT
Rick Read	4NT	4♥	Pass	2 😓	2NT	4♥
RLR	3NT	2NT	4♠	2	3NT	4♥
Rod	3NT	4♥	Pass	2	3NT	4♥
Steve Messinger	4♥	4♥	4♠	2	3♥	4♥
Sue	3NT	2NT	4♠	2	3NT	4♥
Vijay	4	4♥	4♠	2	3NT	4♥
Zigang Pan	4	2NT	Pass	3♥	3NT	2NT
	5	4♥	4♠	2	3NT	2NT

