

Bob Jones March 30 Quiz

Goren on Bridge: Weekly bridge quiz

GOREN BRIDGE MARCH 30, 2024

Q 1 – Neither vulnerable

♠A Q T 7 ♥K Q 8 ♦J ♣Q 6 5 3 2

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH

1♥ ?

What call would you make?

Q 3 – East-West vulnerable

♠7 6 ♥5 ♦A K Q 9 7 6 5 ♣K Q 9

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

2♥* P ?

*weak

What call would you make?

Q 5 – North-South vulnerable

♠7 6 ♥A K Q T 2 ♦A Q ♣K J 4 3

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♥ Pass Pass 2♠*

?

*14-16 points, 6 spades

What call would you make?

Q 2 – North-South vulnerable

♠A K Q J 4 ♥8 7 5 ♦6 5 3 ♣9 5

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

?

What call would you make?

Q 4 – Both vulnerable

♠K 7 3 ♥K J 5 ♦A 8 7 4 ♣A Q 2

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

2♥* P ?

*weak

What call would you make?

Q 6 – East-West vulnerable

♠A 2 ♥K Q 9 6 5 ♦K Q 4 ♣Q 9 8

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

2♦* Pass Pass ?

*weak

What call would you make?

Look for answers on Monday.

Bob Jones March 30 Quiz

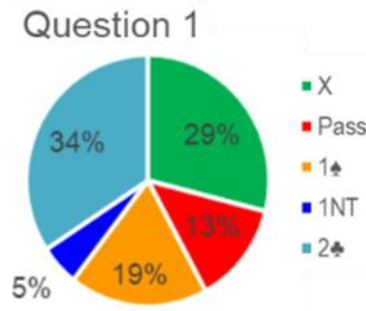
Question 1

Q 1 – Neither vulnerable

♠AQT7 ♥KQ8 ♦J ♣Q6532

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH

1♥ ?



Bob Jones **1♠** We want to compete with this hand, and we prefer to bid our strong 4-card major rather than the weak minor. Bid 1♠.

Steve Vogel **1♠** Lots of alternatives here - 1NT, 2♣, pass or 1♠. I don't like 1NT with a singleton (besides being questionable on points). I view the best of the alternatives to be overcalling 1♠ on this strong holding despite being only 4 cards.

Joe Muenks **Pass** I plan to get back in this auction next round, but for now I do not have the suit or distribution to act. The more you're willing to bid unsoundly across from an unpassed partner (like overcall a 4-card spade suit or a ratty 5-card suit at the 2 level) the more likely they'll remember this specific hand and never trust your future overcalls.

Bob Fisk **1♠** I can't double, 1NT is close, and 2♣ isn't even on my radar. 1♠ it is! Bridge is easy!

Steve Moese **1♠** I prefer a 4-card overcall here with a good suit and a sound hand. Double and 1NT are out of the question. Pass is the alternative, but allows opponents free reign.

Mike Ma **1♠** I misread the question earlier. You can't X with that diamond holding, and 2♣ is beyond horror. With no source of tricks, I can't bid 1NT even if legal. But the hand is too strong to pass, So 1♠ it is.

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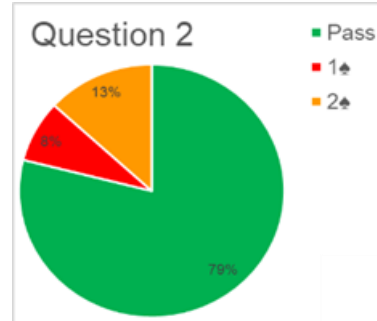
Question 2

Q 2 – North-South vulnerable

♠AKQJ4 ♥875 ♦653 ♣95

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

?



Bob Jones **2♠** Every red-blooded bridge player should want to bid with this hand. It is not quite good enough for 1♠. Open 2♠.

Steve Vogel **Pass** I believe most would open 2♠ with this holding, but I don't see the need to make a flawed preempt when I have the master suit.

Joe Muenks **Pass** I need 1 more spade to open 2♠ and 2 more points to open 1♠, so this is not close for me. When I overcall spades next round, partner will play me for 5 good spades and about 10-11 playing points, ta-da, that is what I have.

Bob Fisk **Pass** If I wasn't vulnerable, I'd open 2♠. My agreement with my partners is that I won't open 2M with a 5-card major if vulnerable. If you open this one 2♠, you're going to be unhappy when the contract would have been 3NT played by East. Rats.

Steve Moese **Pass** I like weak twos on 5 cards, but Vul vs not I need useful shortness. Too many losers.

Mike Ma **Pass** I don't open weak 2 with 5 vulnerable, even with that suit. The 6th trump is worth more than a trick. Should I open 1♠? 5 tricks, 8 losers, balanced hand, does not satisfy Joe's Rule of 20/22. I think I will pass. It is unlikely they can shut out my spade suit if I pass now. If my suit is hearts, it would be more tempting to open.

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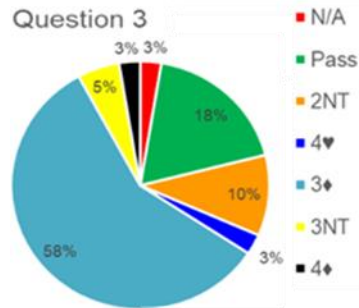
Question 3

Q 3 – East-West vulnerable

♠7 6 ♥5 ♦AKQ 9 7 6 5 ♣K Q 9

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

2♥ P ?



Bob Jones **Pass** 3♦ would probably be a better partial, but we can't get there from here. 3NT is too big of a gamble. It hurts, but pass.

Steve Vogel **4♦** It is rare to preempt over a preempt, but this hand seems to be the one. The opponents have a spade fit, and I want to make it harder for them to find it. I have enough in defensive values to sit for 4♠ if they do bid it.

Joe Muenks **3NT** Maybe the opponents take 5 or 6 spades and the A♣, but maybe they don't, I can't wait to find out. Frequently when we go -2 in 3NT, undoubled surely, they make 3 spades their way so the hand scores ok in pairs or teams anyway.

Bob Fisk **3♦** I play this as non-forcing with all my partners, so 3♦ has to be alerted (it's in red on the card). Are there hands that partner can hold where 3NT rolls? Yes. Does partner have that hand? Of course not. More likely partner holds Qxx KJ9xxx x Txx, and you go down one in 3♦ unless the opponents gift you a second club trick. Sigh.

Steve Moese **Pass** 3♦ is F1, and we don't have a hand to invite. Partner needs little for a NV weak 2. The right cards gives us play for 3NT, but my partners never hold the right cards.

Mike Ma **3NT** I need partner to have spade stopped to even have a chance in 3NT. But I have a gambling 3NT hand, why not bid it? Put a lot of pressure on West.

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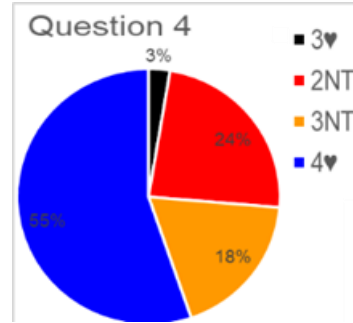
Question 4

Q 4 – Both vulnerable

♠K 7 3 ♥K J 5 ♦A 8 7 4 ♣A Q 2

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

2♥ P ?



Bob Jones **2NT** This hand is not good enough for 4♥. Bid 2NT and settle for 3♥ if partner shows a minimum.

Steve Vogel **3NT** I am going to bid game with this hand, but is it best in hearts or notrump? If partner has a side Ace or King, we are probably better off in 3NT. If not, then 3NT is probably safer, but may make fewer tricks which is critical for matchpoints. All considered, I would choose to bid 3NT.

Joe Muenks **4♥** Playing the rule of 20/22, we should not have slam, but playing sane preempts when vulnerable, we also can picture few hands that won't make game unless partner loses like 3 finesses (12.5%), so we just bid the game.

Bob Fisk **3NT** You aren't getting an extra trick by ruffing something in your hand, and nine tricks will be easier than 10 (duh). Picture partner with xx AQxxxx Kx xxx.

Steve Moese **3NT** A matter of tricks. Partner has a good suit for a vulnerable weak 2. 9 tricks are easier than 10 given this hands' poor shape.

Mike Ma **2NT** I have Mel 20 (# hearts + # hcp), so I am going to bid game. I begin with an Ogust 2NT. If partner shows good suit, I will bid 3NT. A spade or club lead and I will have 9 tricks. If partner shows bad suit, I will play 4♥, esp if she shows bad/bad.

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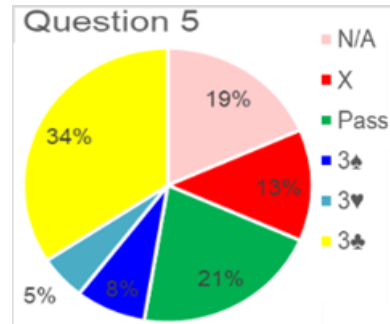
Question 5

Q 5 – North-South vulnerable

♠7 6 ♥A K Q T 2 ♦A Q ♣K J 4 3

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♥ Pass Pass 2♠
?



Bob Jones **Pass** This is a good hand, but it is too dangerous to keep bidding. Pass.

Steve Vogel **Pass** This is a close call. There is a lot to be said for passing. Between the overcaller's and my hand, at least 33 points are accounted for. The opponents do not have a known fit, so there is no assurance our side has one. Any bid is risky, and I prefer a double to 3♣, but I would choose to pass with this hand.

Joe Muenks **X** The old-fashioned meaning of this double is a powerful takeout and might tilt a little off shape. If partner bids 3♦, we sure hope they have extra length but with 4 hearts and a maximum pass, they'll know to try for game. (Note, I called myself old-fashioned, heh heh.)

Bob Fisk **3♣** You didn't pick up your hand to play in 2♠. You need partner to hold almost nothing for 3♣ (or 3♥) to make. How about xx xx xxxxx QTxx? Making four if the K♦ is with East. Heh.

Steve Moese **Pass** My 19 and RHO's 14 leave at most 7 HCP between partner and LHO. Game is unlikely, and partner has already limited themselves to 3-4 HCP. Pass and defend. Our strength is in a bad spot for RHO. Double would be takeout, and we do not want to declare a 3 level contract without a good 9-card fit. Besides our shape is off for that call.

Mike Ma **X** I don't believe in this 14-16 for a moment. Sure that may be their agreement (and it is a bad one), but East will fudge in this situation. Anyway, on the average, it is still our hand. Partner does not have 6, but no reason she is yarborough. I am happy if partner passes my X (even if it is East of all evil for her), or bids 2NT (should be Lebensohl) or 3♣. If she bids 3♦ (directly or after Lebensohl), I will bid 3♥.

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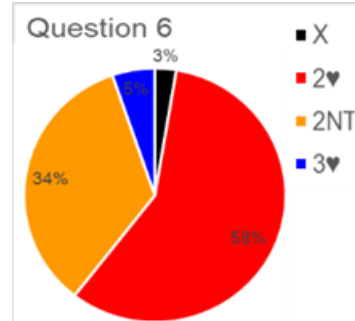
Question 6

Q 6 – East-West vulnerable

♠A 2 ♥K Q 9 6 5 ♦K Q 4 ♣Q 9 8

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

2♦ Pass Pass ?



Bob Jones **2♥** We would open 1NT if we could. In a competitive auction, however, we want to bid our suit. Doubling first is pointless. Just bid 2♥.

Steve Vogel **2NT** My partner and I play Puppet Stayman over a 2NT overcall, so I am fine with overcalling 2NT.

Joe Muenks **2NT** Normally we add about a king over 1x-P-P-1NT, so it's 12-15. Over 2x-P-P-2NT I like to add only a queen, so we'll deliver 13-16/17. It takes more than that to double and bid NT. Our heart suit is not strong enough to double and bid so avoid that overbid; but we're too strong to just overcall 2♥, so do not get wimpy either.

Bob Fisk **2NT** My partners and I still play Puppet Stayman on this auction, since there will be hands such as this one where it's more important to bid 2NT showing your points than it is to bid 2♥ which might not even be an opening hand in balancing position. NOTE: the balancing 1NT range on your card is for balancing with a bid of 1NT. Balancing with 2NT (or 3NT) shows a full 1NT opener. Nuff said.

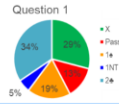
Steve Moese **2♥** Partner will make a move with values.

Mike Ma **2NT** I have a strong NT hand without spade support, so what else. Partner should have ~8 points on the average. My bidding 2NT would give her a good idea if we have game if she has more. If I end up in NT instead of hearts, hopefully I will figure out how to play the hand.

03/30/24	1	2	3	4	5	6
Bob Jones	1♠	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	2♥
Steve Vogel	1♠	Pass	4♦	3NT	Pass	2NT
Joe Muenks	Pass	Pass	3NT	4♥	X	2NT
Bob Fisk	1♠	Pass	3♦	3NT	3♣	2NT
Steve Moese	1♠	Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass	2♥
Al Venosa	2♣	Pass	3♦	3NT	3♣	2♥
Anne Cobb	2♣	1♠	3♦	3♥	N/A	3♥
Bob K	X	Pass	Pass	4♥	3♣	2♥
Carl Willig	2♣	Pass	2NT	2NT	X	2NT
Chuck	2♣	2♠	Pass	4♥	3♥	3♥
Dean Congbalay	Pass	Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass	X
Doug Edwards	1NT	Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass	2♥
Ed	X	Pass	3♦	4♥	Pass	2♥
Gary Herrington	X	1♠	3♦	2NT	3♥	2NT
Greg	2♣	2♠	3♦	4♥	N/A	2♥
James D	2♣	Pass	3♦	4♥	3♠	2♥
James Jacobson	X	Pass	3♦	4♥	Pass	2♥
Jay Gala	X	Pass	3♦	2NT	3♣	2♥
JohnMcQ	Pass	Pass	3♦	3NT	X	2♥
Jusie Clendening	X	Pass	3♦	4♥	N/A	2♥
Kevin C.	1♠	Pass	3♦	2NT	3♣	2NT
Kevin H.	1NT	Pass	3♦	4♥	3♣	2NT
Lanny	1♠	Pass	2NT	4♥	X	2♥
Linda	X	Pass	3♦	4♥	3♣	2NT
Mike Ma	1♠	Pass	3NT	2NT	X	2NT
Mónica	2♣	Pass	2NT	2NT	3♠	2NT
Nell Wickstrom	2♣	Pass	3♦	4♥	N/A	2♥
Pam Campbell	2♣	1♠	2NT	4♥	3♣	2♥
Pete Outcalt	Pass	Pass	Pass	4♥	3♣	2♥
Rick	Pass	Pass	3♦	2NT	3♣	2NT
Robert N.	X	2♠	3♦	2NT	N/A	2♥
Rod	X	Pass	4♥	4♥	3♠	2NT
Sally Raney	X	Pass	3♦	4♥	3♣	2NT
Sue	X	2♠	3♦	4♥	3♣	2♥
Vijay Doshi	2♣	Pass	N/A	4♥	3♣	2♥
Zigang Pan	2♣	Pass	3♦	4♥	Pass	2♥
	2♣	Pass	3♦	4♥	N/A	2♥
	2♣	Pass	3♦	3NT	N/A	2♥

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The Field:



03/30/24	1	2	3	4	5	6
Bob Jones	1♣	2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	2♥
Steve Vogel	1♣	Pass	4♦	3NT	Pass	2NT
Joe Muenks	Pass	Pass	3NT	4♥	X	2NT
Bob Fisk	1♣	Pass	3♣	3NT	3♣	2NT
Steve Morse	1♣	Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass	2♥
Al Venosa	2♣	Pass	3♦	3NT	3♣	2♥
Anne Cobb	2♣	1♣	3♦	3♥	N/A	3♥
Bob K	X	Pass	Pass	4♥	3♣	2♥
Carl Willig	2♣	Pass	2NT	2NT	X	2NT
Chuck	2♣	2♣	Pass	4♥	3♥	3♥
Dean Congbalay	Pass	Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass	X
Doug Edwards	1NT	Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass	2♥
Ed	X	Pass	3♦	4♥	Pass Ogust	2♥
Gary Herrington	X	1♣	3♦	2NT Ogust	3♥	2NT Ogust
Greg	2♣	2♣	3♦	4♥	N/A	2♥
James D	2♣	Pass	3♦	4♥	3♣	2♥
James Jacobson	X	Pass	3♦	4♥	Pass	2♥
Jay Gala	X	Pass	3♦	2NT	3♣	2♥
JohnMcJ	Pass	Pass	3♦	3NT	X	2♥
Juile Clendening	X	Pass	3♦	3NT	N/A	2♥
Kevin C.	1♣	Pass	3♦ Non forcing	2NT	3♣	2NT
Kevin H.	1NT	Pass	3♦	4♥	3♣	2NT
Lanny	1♣	Pass	2NT Feature ask	4♥	X	2♥
Linda	X	Pass	3♦	4♥	3♣	2NT
Mike Ma	1♣	Pass	3NT	2NT	X	2NT
Mónica	2♣	Pass	2NT Ogust	2NT Feature	3♣	2NT Ogust
Nell Wickstrom	2♣	Pass	3♦	4♥	N/A	2♥
Pam Campbell	2♣	1♣	2NT	4♥	3♣	2♥
Pete Outcalt	Pass	Pass	Pass	4♥	3♣	2♥
Rick	Pass	Pass	3♦	2NT Feature ask	3♣	2NT
Robert N.	X	2♣	3♦	2NT	N/A	2♥
Rod	X	Pass	4♥	4♥	3♣ Western	2NT
Sally Raney	X	Pass	3♦	4♥	3♣	2NT
Sue	X	2♣	3♦	4♥	3♣	2♥
Vijay Doshi	2♣	Pass	N/A	4♥	3♣	2♥
Zigang Pan	2♣	Pass	3♦	4♥	Pass	2♥
	2♣	Pass	3♦	4♥	N/A	2♥
	2♣	Pass	3♦	3NT	N/A	2♥