



## Weekly Bridge Quiz #34

Canada's results with a few comments and ChatGPT - 2025



**Q1:** Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

**S- A J 9 4    H- K    D- Q J 5    C- A J 8 6 5**

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1C	1H	1S	Pass
?			

What call would you make?

**Pros' Answer:** The king of hearts probably has no value as a high card, but the singleton does have value. Is this hand worth a jump raise? We think it is.

**Bid 3S.**

**ChatGPT's Response:**

**My Expert Verdict:** Bid 2♥ (cue-raise) shows an invitational+ raise of ♠, keeps space to explore game/slam, and is the modern expert action.

**Rationale:** 13 HCP with a powerful ♠ fit potential and a singleton ♥ (excellent ruffing value).

A cue-bid is the standard strong raise over interference; it asks partner to further describe while confirming a good ♠ raise.

Jump to 3♠ consumes room and can misstate strength/distribution; cue-bid retains flexibility for game/slam evaluation.

Controls are placed well (♣ A J 8 6 5 behind overcaller's ♥).

**Other reasonable options:**

3♠ — practical invitational raise emphasizing playing strength; less flexible.

2♠ — minimum raise; underbids this hand.

**Comment:** The Pro's jump to 3♠ was intended to show a Spade fit and invitational values. The same can be said about cue bidding 2♥, except at a lower level. I am therefore awarding an Equivalent Match to those who bid 2♥. Thirteen participants received an EM for 2♥.

### Question 1

Bid	Totals	3S	2S	2H	3H	4S	1NT	2NT	3C
#	122	65	21	15	9	7	2	2	1
%	100%	53%	17%	12%	7%	6%	2%	2%	1%

### Comments:

- 3♠ - Agreed, with the Pro and a plurality of quiz responders. Despite the likely wasted heart K, you have four trump, excellent shape (5431) and sufficient extras to encourage partner.

A few people tried to show their heart shortness, but stiff K is a little misleading as a splinter, certainly not ideal.

Partner will never treat their Qxx of hearts as useful, for example.

Tempting fate by simply bidding 4♠ might work, but there's no need to be that pushy. Give partner a chance to voice their opinion; they're likely to go on if it's right to do so. A 3♠ call seems to hit the right balance.

- 3♠ - The HK will probably be wasted, but the other 13 HCP, along with the singleton Heart, are enough to invite the game.
- 3♠ - Subtract a few points for the stiff king but add a few for the heart shortness, and 3♠ seems about right.
- 2♠ - A raise is sufficient, in that this hand has seven losers. The King of hearts is only worth three points, not because it is the King, but because it is a singleton. If the opponents compete to 3H, competing with 3♠ is OK.
- 2♥ - My cuebid shows a spade fit and extra values. Pard has at least 5 Spades otherwise he would have made a Negative Double. Over to you, pard!

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**Q2:** North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

**S- A Q 10 7    H- K Q 6 3    D- Q 10 7 5    C- J**

With the opponents silent, you open 1D and partner responds 2C. What is your rebid?

**Pros' Answer:** Partner may have a 4-card major and longer clubs, so we bid **2H**. People who play that this shows extras, as they did in Charles Goren's day, must bid **2NT**.

**ChatGPT's Response:**

**My Expert Verdict:** Bid 2♥ — natural, up-the-line, searching for a 4–4 major fit before notrump.

**Rationale:**

13 HCP balanced-ish; showing a 4-card major is priority in modern methods.

2♥ is not showing extras in contemporary style; it's just natural.

Locating a heart fit frequently outperforms starting 2NT on these shapes.

**Other reasonable options:**

2NT — reasonable only if you play that 2♥ promises extras (Goren-era style).

**Comment:** I awarded an Equivalent Match to those who bid 2NT and clearly indicated in their comments that they were prohibited by agreement from bidding 2♥ as it showed reverse values. (Goren would have liked this decision). I only saw 2 explanations that qualified for an EM. In my view, this all comes down to partnership agreement as Deen underlines. So, while those of us who bid 2NT showing stoppers were not often rewarded with a match, we can take some solace that this is a very reasonable bid. The Pro and ChatGPT obviously don't have this understanding on their radar. Wayne

Question 2							
Bid	Totals	2H	2NT	3NT	2S	PASS	2D
#	122	53	50	14	3	1	1
%	100%	43%	41%	11%	2%	1%	1%

**Comments:**

- 2NT - Interestingly, this is one of two questions where style and agreement will suggest different approaches. As the Pro points out, it is important to recognize that the 2♣ response to 1♦, playing 2/1, does not deny a possible 4-card major. Patterning out the hand while establishing a game force is the most descriptive sequence available, and with five or six decent clubs and a 4-card major, bidding clubs with a game force should take precedence.
- 2♥ - I realize that the Pro plays this bid as invitational, but I play it as a game force (2/1). His bid does not deny a major suit, so I must show my majors.
- 2♥ - We are in a game force and partner has not denied having a 4-card major suit. We bid majors up the line in that situation to try and find one.
- 2NT - Shows stoppers in both majors. If responder has a four-card major and 5+ clubs, a rebid in that major would show 4-5+ distribution, which I would then raise.
- 2NT - Over this sequence, my pards and I show major-suit stoppers up the line. 2NT shows I have both majors stopped. We are in a game force, so it looks like I'll likely be playing in 3NT.

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**Q3:** East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

**S- 7 5    H- 5 4    D- A K 7 6 3    C- A K 8 6**

Partner opens 2H, weak, and right-hand opponent passes. What call would you make?

**Pros' Answer:** "When partner pre-empt in your shortest suit, stay out of the auction unless you have the values of a strong no trump or better." **Pass.**

**ChatGPT's Response:**

**My Expert Verdict:** Bid 2NT (Ogust/feature inquiry); you have strong NT values; investigate 3NT or a minor-game before giving up.

**Rationale:**

16 HCP opposite a weak two; despite the misfit, you're within range to make game if partner is max with a decent ♥ suit or a side feature.

Ogust helps you decide between 3NT, 4♥ (rare), or 5♣/5♦ depending on partner's strength/suit quality.

Passing with this much power is too pessimistic; lack of a ♥ stopper can still be mitigated if partner is max/good suit (or by aiming for a minor game).

**Other reasonable options:**

Pass — safest with a known misfit; modern experts still prefer to explore with 2NT holding 16 HCP.

3♣/3♦ — natural but inferior to starting with 2NT which keeps more strains open.

Question 3							
Bid	Totals	2NT	PASS	3H	4H	3D	4S
#	122	51	42	13	12	3	1
%	100%	42%	34%	11%	10%	2%	1%

**Comments:**

- 2NT - With a spade feature or a maximum there's a shot at game despite not meeting the Rule of 17. It's pushy but not outlandish. Passing 2♥ is certainly the safe option.
- 2NT - If my partner has a maximum, then I like my chances for a game.
- 2NT - This is a tough decision. 4♥ could be there if partner has the right hand for me and a 3♥ contract is probably safe, so I'll try to find out more about partner's hand.
- P - Too risky to try for game. If the opponents compete with 2S, I shall rebid a competitive 3H.
- 3♥ - Tough one. We are on an 8-card fit but I think game is unlikely (I lack a rule of 17 hand). The opps likely have spades. So, I'll push to the 3 level which should be safe. 3♠ probably doesn't make so I'll double if they go there. I need only one trick from partner.

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**Q4:** Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

**S- Q 9 8    H- K J 10 6 3    D- A K    C- J 9 5**

**SOUTH**    WEST    NORTH    EAST  
**1H**       Pass       1S       Pass

**?**

What call would you make?

**Pros' Answer:** 1NT would not be the worst bid ever made, but with 3 decent trumps and a ruffing value, we prefer to raise. Bid **2S**.

**ChatGPT's Response:**

**My Expert Verdict:** Raise to 2♠ — quality 3-card support and ruffing potential argue for supporting now.

Rationale:

13 HCP with excellent controls (♦ A K) and useful trump quality (Q 9 8).  
 Ruffing value in the long ♥ suit upgrades playing strength for a ♠ contract.  
 1NT would misdescribe and risks losing the fit emphasis.

Other reasonable options:

1NT — possible, but inferior to showing support with these cards.

**Question 4**

Bid	Totals	1NT	2S	2D	3NT
#	122	99	20	2	1
%	100%	81%	16%	2%	1%

**Comments:**

- 1NT – There are two separate options on this hand, largely depending on agreement. I have to disagree with the Pro here, as they seem to prefer the 2♠ raise over the more traditional 1NT rebid, but without mention of Spiral or CurlyCue or any specific conventional agreement that allows one to differentiate between a 3-card and 4-card spade raise. They also fail to give 1NT an equivalent match and are pretty dismissive of it.
- 1NT - This shows 12-14 HCP and, at best, 3-card support. I will bid Spades next over anything my partner bids, even over 2S.
- 1NT - Better 1NT than 2H, with only 3-card support and decent holdings in the other two suits.
- 1NT - Natural. All of partner's game tries will be accepted.
- 1NT - With Diamonds double stopped and partial stoppers in the other suits, seems a logical bid. If I was short somewhere, I'd raise to 2♠ and let pard use Spiral if appropriate.

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**Q5:** North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

**S- K 10 8    H- A K 10 8 7 5    D- Q 5    C- 6 2**

Partner opens 3D and right-hand opponent passes. What call would you make?

**Pros' Answer:** Partner has pre-empted in your shortest suit and you do not have the values for a bid. **Pass.**

**ChatGPT's Response:**

**My Expert Verdict:** Pass — large misfit opposite a weak preempt; game prospects are poor.

**Rationale:**

Your strength is concentrated in ♥; partner has long ♦ — classic misfit.

3NT is unattractive (fragile ♣/♠ stoppers) and 5♦ rates poorly opposite your ♦ doubleton.

New suit tries over a preempt consume space without a clear target game.

**Other reasonable options:**

3♥ — some play this as forcing; still tends to be optimistic on a misfit.

3NT — speculative and likely inferior.

Question 5						
Bid	Totals	PASS	3H	4D	3NT	5D
#	122	85	31	4	1	1
%	100%	70%	25%	3%	1%	1%

**Comments:**

- Pass - Protect your likely plus rather than looking for the magic hand. I have sympathy for the optimistic 3♥ bidders, but I do feel that you are more likely to get too high and this will outweigh the benefit of an improved and higher scoring contract. Unless you have the unlikely agreement that a 3-level vul preempt guarantees two of the top three honors (so AKxxxxx in this case), any move forward entails significant risk. Clearly another close call for many though, and only one camp is going to be right!
- P - I have support, i.e. not a void, and I don't have an opener; therefore, no reason to bid.
- P - No reason to think I can improve the contract, although it is tempting to bid 3NT and hope the opponents don't take the first 5 tricks.
- 3♥ - Looking for game in hearts. The Queen of diamonds is a big card.
- P - Another tough one. I'm tempted to bid 3♥. But this would be forcing and now what, especially if pard is short in Hearts. 5♦ is unlikely to make as is 3NT and we are vulnerable. Best to take our plus score and move on.

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**Q6:** East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

**S- Q 10 7 6 3    H- A 9    D- K 10 8 7    C- J 7**

Partner opens 1S and right-hand opponent doubles. What call would you make?

**Pros' Answer:** After an overcall, we use a cue bid to show a good raise. After a take-out double, we use 2NT. Bid **2NT**.

### ChatGPT's Response:

**My Expert Verdict:** Bid 2NT (Jordan) — limit raise or better with ♠ support; ideal description.

### Rationale:

10 HCP with 5 trumps — constructive values and fit.

Jordan 2NT over a takeout double shows a good raise and keeps room to investigate game.

Trump fit + side ♦ texture = strong candidate for game if opener is suitable.

### Other reasonable options:

3♦ — fit-showing jump (if played) to show a ♠ raise with a ♦ fragment.

3♠ — limit raise; conveys less about side shape than 2NT.

Comment: As Deen points out, using a strong Bergen raise here is consistent with the Pro's message of showing a fit with invitational values. Therefore, I am giving an EM to those who bid 3♣/3♦ indicting in their comment that it is invitational with 4 (or more in this case) Spades. There were 2 EMs given for using Bergen.

Question 6								
Bid	Totals	4S	2NT	XX	3S	2S	3C	2C
#	122	76	27	9	4	2	2	1
%	100%	62%	22%	7%	3%	2%	2%	1%

### Comments:

- 2NT should show at least an invitational strength raise in spades. Most will play this conventionally as Jordan, a handful as Jacoby 2NT. Regardless, this hand will go on to bidding 4♠, confirming the extra spade length or strength.

I'm surprised by the number of people who voted for an immediate jump to 4♠. Maybe they felt this was tactically justified but surely the hand is too strong and risks preempting your partner when they own a really good hand. The jump to 4♠, in my opinion, should still be a shapely hand with some shortness, five or more trump and an evaluation of about 6-9 points, the hand partner would expect in a 1♠-4♠ uncontested auction. I'm also not a big fan of redouble, as partner will expect the 10+ HCP, but not the extreme spade fit. That call also does nothing to take away any bidding space from the opponents.

The one bid I didn't consider was 3♣/3♦ as a Bergen Raise, which some pairs play on over double. The presence of the 5th spade may have misled **me**, **but** this is also a reasonable approach if you don't play Jordan or define the 2NT bid differently.

- 2NT - I'm showing my partner good support. Also, I intend to bid the Spade game even if he only bids 3S. In my system, I cannot jump to the game as it will deny the extra values I own.
- 4♠ - Slam is unlikely to be there, after the vulnerable X, so I will bid what I think is the contract we should be in.
- 2NT - An artificial bid -- a convention called Jordan -- to show 4+ spades and limit-raise values or better. This hand has too many values for a competitive or preemptive raise of spades. If partner rebids 3S, I will raise that rebid to game. After all, I do have a seven-loser hand.
- 4♠ - I could redouble showing 10+ HCPs, saying the hand is ours and later support spades. But who am I kidding - we want to play in Spades given our 10-card fit.

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