



Weekly Bridge Quiz #28

Canada's results plus a few comments - 2025



Q1: Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

S- Q H- 9 7 D- J 7 C- A K Q J 9 8 7 5

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1C Pass 1S Pass

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What call would you make?

Pros' Answer: Great suit, but partner still needs a reasonable hand to make a game. Don't push him to be too aggressive. Just bid **2C**.

Question 1

Bid	Totals	3C	2C	4C	3NT	5C	2D
#	119	73	20	13	9	3	1
%	100%	61%	17%	11%	8%	3%	1%

Comments: Most of us, including analyst Dave, evaluated that great Club suit as extras and chose 3C. One in six went with the Pro's call of 2C. 4C and 3NT were the next most popular bids. Many would have opened a Gambling 3NT instead of 1C.

- 3C - There is a good argument for opening a gambling 3NT here. I am also suspicious of quiet opponents. I think my club suit is too good for a rebid of 2C and it also blocks opponents from bidding at the two level. I don't think I can bid 3NT now. I need partner to evaluate their stoppers in the unbid suits. We may end up in 3C, 3NT, 4C, 5C, or (gulp) 6C. I am not winning the postmortem.
- 2C - I considered 3NT, but my partner may be void in Clubs.
- 2C - If partner cannot rebid, then this is probably where we should be. Depending on partner's hand, game or even slam is not out of the question. So best to keep the bidding low to allow maximum room for further exploration.
- 3C - Natural, invitational to 3N. If playing gambling 3N, I would have opened this hand 3N.
- 3C - At the table, I would have kicked off with a gambling 3NT. Not that pard has bypassed Hearts, I'm leery about bidding 3NT with no stopper. I'll just show a hand with good clubs - I have 8 tricks and perhaps pard can venture 3NT.

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

S- A 6 5 3 H- A K Q 9 8 6 5 D- Void C- A 7

Partner opens 2D, weak, and right-hand opponent bids 2S. What call would you make?

Pros' Answer: You must bid game and you should not look for more. Opposite a diamond pre-empt, you might not find a tenth trick, but you must try. Bid **4H**.

Question 2							
Bid	Totals	4H	3H	3NT	2NT	X	PASS
#	119	68	27	18	3	2	1
%	100%	57%	23%	15%	3%	2%	1%

Comments: Over half of us jumped to 4H while a quarter of the meeker folks chose a more tepid 3H. 3NT, analyst Dave's choice, was the next most popular bid.

- 3NT - Is 3H forcing over interference? Good question for partnerships to discuss. My first thought was 4H but I can only get to 9 winners. I know hearts could break badly but if that happens 4H will be a disaster too. I know, I go against the pro here and many of the other bidders. But I ask you this question. If you were in Vegas and had to bet \$1,000, on which hand do you think will most likely make - would you bet 3NT or 4H?
- 4H - 3H is an underbid. Here's hoping my partner has an entry to his Diamonds or some ruffing values.
- 3NT - Assuming a normal distribution of the missing hearts, and also assuming that partner has the diamonds stopped, I have 9 tricks in a NT contract. If partner has just the right hand (e.g. AKQ of diamonds and an entry in one of the other suits) slam could be there, but I have no way find out.
- 3NT - Hoping neither opponent has four hearts.
- 4H - I only need a trick from pard and some luck on the Heart split.

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

S- A 10 7 6 4 2 H- J 7 D- K 4 C- J 4 3

Partner opens 1NT, 15-17. What call would you make?

Pros' Answer: This is worth a game force. If you play both Jacoby and Texas transfers, bid **4H**. If not, bid **2H** and raise partner's 2S response to game.

Question 3					
Bid	Totals	4H	2H	2C	2D
#	119	79	38	1	1
%	100%	66%	32%	1%	1%

Comments: Two-thirds of us followed the Pro's and analyst Dave's advice and used a Texas 4H transfer to game in Spades. Most others bid 2H Jacoby with some planning to bid 4S but others only a 3S invite.

- 4H - I originally thought about a transfer and a raise to 3S. Then I thought who am I kidding I would always bid 4H Texas. Especially atimps. Now, I have a question to ask the field. I think even if 4S goes down there will be a significant number in game so your matchpoint % score will be 30-40% whereas only bidding 3 when 4 makes will result in a match point % of 15-25% or worse. Do you agree with this logic? I guess I believe more upside than downside.
- 2H - I would prefer to bid 4H as a transfer, but I seem to remember that the Pro doesn't play Texas Transfers. I will raise my partner's 2S to 4. If the 2 Jacks were the Queen of Spades, I would treat this hand as a mild slam try.
- 2H - Transfer to spades, intending to next bid 3S, showing an invitational hand with 6 spades. I considered an immediate bid of 4H, but with lots of losers and a probably useless J, I don't think that is justified.
- 4H - Texas transfer to 4S. If partner has a singleton spade, it better be the King.
- 4H - Texas, transfer to 4S. My alternative is to play it in 3NT which could work out better at MPs. But with weakish spades and a known 8-card fit, 4S sounds better.

Q4: Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

S- A Q 10 8 6 5 H- A 3 D- A 9 7 C- J 8

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1S X 2S 3H

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What call would you make?

Pros' Answer: 3S or 4S? We like **4S**, but it is a close decision. Some experts play a double (**X**) in this position as a game try. Good bid, but we don't play it.

Question 4

Bid	Totals	3S	4S	X	PASS	4H
#	119	75	22	18	3	1
%	100%	63%	18%	15%	3%	1%

Comments: Almost two-thirds of us chose 3S while the Pro's choice of 4S was a distant second. A close third was analyst Dave's choice of a X as an invite.

- X - Three spades is to play. My only game try is double. Partners two spades could be crap up to a constructive raise, so I need to give them a chance to define their hand. Who knows we may end up defending. If you have no agreement here you are in a tough spot, and I would bid 4S.
- 3S - We have a fit, but it is unlikely that my partner has more than a 6 count.
- 3S - Showing my 6-card with a good hand. I have no bidding room below the game level, to make an invitational bid, so this will have to be it.
- 4S - With six spades, I'm going for game.
- X - Maximal double, not penalty, showing extras and inviting pard to bid 4S with a maximum for his raise.

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

S- A Q 10 4 H- K 10 5 3 D- A J 6 3 C- A

Right-hand opponent opens 1H. What call would you make?

Pros' Answer: Double (X), 1S, and 1NT are all flawed, but any of them could be the winner on a given day. We have a slight preference for **1S**.

Question 5

Bid	Totals	X	1NT	PASS	2NT
#	119	62	53	3	1
%	100%	52%	45%	3%	1%

Comments: A close call for the group between X and 1NT. No one agreed with the Pro's choice of 1S.

- 1NT - I think double here could get you way too high, way too fast. If partner bids 2C. I am now forced to bid 2NT and I'm not good enough to do that. At least I gave partner a clearer picture of my point count. 1NT may be our last plus and it also allows most partnerships the most bidding tools. I considered 1S but I went with 1NT to help partner get a sense of the strength of my hand and to help in the decision making.
- X - The hand is too strong for a No-Trump overcall. If my partner bids Clubs, then I'll bid No Trump, to show at least 19 HCP; otherwise, I'll raise in any other suit, to game if my partner shows values.
- 1NT - The best bid, I think, showing my approximate distribution strength, and heart stoppers. The drawback is that it might bury a heart fit if partner is weak, but I would not enjoy the X - 2C - 2NT sequence.
- X - If partner responds 2C, I shall rebid 2N, showing stoppers and 18 to 20 HCP. If partner bids a pointed suit, I shall raise, assuming the opponents pass.
- 1NT - 18 HCPs and Hearts stopped. I don't like the stiff A of Clubs, but this is the most descriptive bid. Perhaps pard will bid Stayman and we'll find our spade fit.

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

S- 10 7 3 H- A 10 9 6 2 D- Q 8 7 4 C- 8

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

Pros' Answer: Make a Negative Double (**X**) to bring hearts into the picture.
Should partner bid clubs you can correct to diamonds and put down a pretty good dummy.

Question 6

Bid	Totals	X	2D	2H	PASS	3D
#	119	61	38	12	4	4
%	100%	51%	32%	10%	3%	3%

Comments: Half of us went with the Pro and analyst Dave in doubling to show 4+ Hearts. A third went with 2D with 2H being a distant third in our choices.

Unless you play Negative free bids or other such agreement, you don't have the 10+ points usually required to bid to the 2 level to show your Heart suit. This was why the Negative Double was invented.

- X - Your chance to introduce hearts into the auction. I play a diamond bid promises 4, so I will bid over opponent's possible 2S bid. This is potentially a very good hand for this auction. Also, I am thrilled that we are white against red.
- X - Negative, less than a good 9 count. If my partner bids 2C, I'll raise Diamonds.
- X - I don't have the values to bid a forcing 2H bid, showing 5 hearts, so this is second best. If partner cannot support my hearts I intend to go back to her first-bid suit.
- X - This shows four or five hearts with responding values. If partner does not bid hearts, I'll continue on to 3D at my next turn to bid, provided that bid is available.
- X - Negative showing 4+ Hearts. If pard responds 2C, I'll correct to 2D.

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