



Weekly Bridge Quiz #31

Canada's results plus a few participant's comments - 2025



Q1: Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

S- Q 5 4 H- J 5 D- K 8 6 5 C- 10 8 6 3

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1H	Pass	1NT	Pass
3D	Pass	?	

What call would you make?

Pros' Answer: Don't bid 3NT with such weak black suits. We would bid 3H rather than 4D, as it gives partner room to bid 3NT with a suitable hand.

ChatGPT's Expert Verdict: 3♥

Expert Analysis

South holds 6 HCP (♠Q, ♦K). The hand is balanced with weak black suits and a poor holding in ♥J5. Partner has

shown strength with 1♥ and then 3♦ — a game try. With weak stoppers in the black suits and only partial heart support, South must tread carefully and avoid 3NT.

Bid Choices:

Pass – Too pessimistic. Partner is inviting game; passing now would be giving up too soon.

3♦ – Overstates diamond support; South only has three diamonds and no ruffing value.

3♥ – Shows minimal values and a preference for hearts, allowing partner to steer toward the right strain.

3NT – Risky with such weak black suits and no ♣ stopper.

4♦ – Wrong because it closes the auction too soon and prevents partner from bidding 3NT.

5♦ – Wrong because it wildly overstates your hand, commits you to an 11-trick contract you don't have the assets for, and bypasses the best possible strain.

What the Experts Say

- Marty Bergen – Bid 3♥. “With limited values and weak black suits, you must show heart support and let partner continue.”
- Mike Lawrence – Bid 3♥. “3NT is asking for trouble; partner may still bid notrump later if stoppers exist.”
- Larry Cohen – Bid 3♥. “Natural and safe — keeps the auction alive and avoids a misfit disaster.”

Question 1

Bid	Totals	3NT	PASS	3H	4D	3S	4H	5D
#	128	35	28	27	26	4	4	4
%	100%	27%	22%	21%	20%	3%	3%	3%

Comments:

- 3NT - I play a Jump Shift to the 3 level as a game force, so we must reach a game. My black suits look like partial stoppers; rather than forcing game by bidding 4D, I'll take the lesser evil.
- 4♦ - Diamond support is the most important information I can give partner at this point. I don't want to mislead her by suggesting that I have decent heart support. If her heart suit is very good, she will bid 4♥ anyway. Also, in a diamond contract, she may be able to ruff hearts in dummy.
- 3♥ - Too weak for 3N, considering that partner has no more than four black cards. Failure to initially raise hearts now promises only two hearts. And raising to 4♦ would likely be taken as forcing, for which this hand is too weak to do.
- 3NT - The 3♦ bid is a game force and this is probably the best game I think we can make.
- 3♥ - Pard's bid is a game force. Seems we have a choice of 3NT, 4♥ or possibly 5♦. Looks like we have a Diamond fit, but I think 3NT or 4♥ gives us a better chance. I'll show my preference for his first bid suit.

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

S- 9 8 6 4 H- 9 6 5 D- 8 4 3 C- A Q 6

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1S	2H	2S	3H
Pass	Pass	?	

What call would you make?

Pros' Answer: You should be safe competing to the 3 level with 9 combined trumps. Bid 3S.

ChatGPT's Expert Verdict: 3♠

Expert Analysis

South has 7 HCP (♣A, ♣Q). After 1♠-2♥-2♠-3♥, the auction shows a fit: South has 4 spades opposite partner's five.

Competing is justified by the Law of Total Tricks.

Bid Choices

Pass – Too timid; allows opponents to play 3♥ when you have a safe spade contract.

3♠ – Correct competitive action; shows a 4-card fit and willingness to play at the three level.

Double – Wrong message; would imply willingness to defend or extra values.

What the Experts Say:

- Marty Bergen – Bid 3♠. “You have nine trumps — always compete to the 3-level.”
- Mike Lawrence – Bid 3♠. “Partner expects you to compete; not doing so gives away the hand.”
- Larry Cohen – Bid 3♠. “Textbook application of the Law of Total Tricks.”

Question 2			
Bid	Totals	PASS	3S
#	128	64	64
%	100%	50%	50%

Comments:

- 3♠ - LOTT bid. I hope I don't push them into a Heart game.
- 3♠ - Strictly a LOTT bid, telling partner I have 4 of them.
- 3♠ - This raise is based on the Law of Total Tricks, where our partnership holds nine spades. The AQ of clubs in this auction are good cards to hold.
- P - Vulnerable I'm too balanced to bid 3S. If I was going to bid 3♠, I should have done it on my first bid.
- P - Pard seems to be weak, and we likely cannot make 3♠ despite a 9-card fit. Better to defend and try to set them at the 3 level.

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1H	1S	Pass	2D
Pass	2S	Pass	?

What call would you make?

Pros' Answer: We can't give up on game yet, so we can't pass. We like bidding **3D**.

ChatGPT's Expert Verdict: 3♦

Expert Analysis

South holds 12 HCP (♦AQJ, ♣A). Partner bid 1♠ then 2♠; South introduced diamonds with 2♦. With good diamonds and extra values, South can't simply pass — there may still be game.

Bid Choices

- Pass – Shuts the door on game; too passive with this hand.
- 2NT – Suggests a stopper-based hand; not appropriate given poor hearts.
- 3♦ – Shows extra length and strength in diamonds, inviting further exploration.
- 3♣ – Would be an unnecessary new suit and off track.

What the Experts Say:

- Marty Bergen – Bid 3♦. “Keep the auction alive — you can't settle for a partscore yet.”
- Mike Lawrence – Bid 3♦. “Natural and forcing, showing real diamonds and interest in game.”
- Larry Cohen – Bid 3♦. “No reason to pass; partner can still evaluate for game.”

Question 3							
Bid	Totals	3D	PASS	3C	3S	3H	4S
#	128	54	38	30	3	2	1
%	100%	42%	30%	23%	2%	2%	1%

Comments:

- P - My 2♦ bid was an underbid; perhaps I should bid 3C. But I don't want to push my partner on a potential misfit. It looks like my partner has a very good weak 2 hand.
- 3♣ - Keeping a possible 3NT in the picture. Partner possibly has some hearts in addition to her spades (neither my RHO nor I seem to have any).
- 3♦ - Natural, not forcing. This hand will very likely make more tricks with the trump suit being diamonds rather than spades.
- 3♦ - My Diamonds are pretty good. I think a 3♣ bid would be stronger.
- P - Yuk! I could bid 3♣ and give pard a choice of minors but I do have some support for pard. Tough call.

Q4: Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

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

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1D 1S Pass ?

What call would you make?

Pros' Answer: Too much to pass and no diamond stopper. What to do? We would bid 2S and promise partner an extra trump next time.

ChatGPT's Expert Verdict: 2♠

Expert Analysis

South has 11 HCP (♠K, ♥A, ♣K). Partner opened 1♦ and overcalled 1♠; South has support but not enough for a limit

raise. No diamond stopper suggests not bidding notrump; we should support spades.

Bid Choices:

Pass – Too weak; partner's overcall deserves a response.

1NT – Wrong shape, no diamond stopper.

2♠ – Shows spade support and constructive values without overstating.

3♠ – Too much; South has only 11 HCP and not enough for a limit raise.

What the Experts Say

- Marty Bergen – Bid 2♠. "Partner's overcall is serious; reward with simple support."
- Mike Lawrence – Bid 2♠. "Keeps things low, promises support, lets partner clarify strength."
- Larry Cohen – Bid 2♠. "Right strength for a simple raise; don't distort your hand."

Question 4

Bid	Totals	PASS	1NT	2S	2C	2H	2D
#	128	40	34	32	15	5	2
%	100%	31%	27%	25%	12%	4%	2%

Comments:

- 2♠ - Unfortunately, no Diamond stopper for No Trump, but I have too much to Pass. I shouldn't bid a 4-card suit, so I'll mis-sort my hand (Kx[x] A9xx 8xx K9x-).
- 2♦ - A bit of an overbid, but 2♠ seems too tame and I don't want to pass with this 10 HCP hand.
- 1NT - Shows values of 8 to 11 HCP without primary spade support. Even if the opponents run five diamond tricks, we should still make this contract. RHO's failure to raise diamonds suggest that partner may hold some values in diamonds.
- P - I hate to bid 1NT without a stopper in the Diamonds.
- P - Tough one. I can't bid 1NT with no Diamond stopper and I can't raise Spades (can I?). Hoping pard does not have 15 HCPs (with 16 or more, presumably he'd have doubled to start off)

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

S- Void H- A K Q 8 4 D- 7 C- A J 10 9 8 7 5

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1C 1NT Pass Pass

?

What call would you make?

Pros' Answer: Sounds like we'd rather be playing with West. Despite the advertised strength on our left, we would bid 4H and force a preference from partner.

ChatGPT's Expert Verdict: 4♥

Expert Analysis

South has 17 HCP (♥AKQ, ♣AJ10). Holding a powerhouse distributional hand: 6-5 in hearts and clubs, void in spades. West overcalled 1NT; we need to force partner to clarify.

Bid Choices

Pass – Unthinkable; too much strength to pass.

Double – Would imply penalties, but with short spades, this isn't right.

2♥ - Experts would say 2♥ is far too timid. It treats this monster as an ordinary hand, allows partner to

underbid, and misrepresents your intentions. You need a forcing 4♥ jump to insist on game and get partner to pick

between clubs and hearts.

3♥ - Experts would say 3♥ is simply the wrong level—it invites when you must force. With this much

shape and strength, you should skip the invitational 3♥ and jump directly to 4♥, forcing partner to choose.

4♥ – Natural and strong; sets trumps, shows intention to play game.

3♣ – Underbidding; too mild for this monster.

What the Experts Say

- Marty Bergen – Bid 4♥. “Shows your long hearts and power immediately.”
- Mike Lawrence – Bid 4♥. “Blast to game; you're far too strong to go slow.”
- Larry Cohen – Bid 4♥. “Don't dilly-dally; hearts is the obvious strain.”

Question 5

Bid	Totals	2H	3H	3C	2C	4H	5C	2D	3S	4C	X	4NT
#	128	80	14	11	9	3	3	2	2	2	1	1
%	100%	63%	11%	9%	7%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%

Comments:

- 3♥ - A 3-loser hand, how much do I need from my partner for a game?
- 2♥ - Showing a strong hand. If partner can support my hearts I will go to 4.
- 2♥ - Suggesting five hearts, so therefore six or more clubs.
- 2♥ - Show my other suit.
- 2♥ - Reversing is risky perhaps but my hand is too good to do anything else

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

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

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1D	2C	X*	3C
Pass	Pass	?	

*Negative

What call would you make?

Pros' Answer: Passing could work well, but it is too timid for us. Bid 3D.

ChatGPT's Expert Verdict: 3♦:

Expert Analysis

South has 10 HCP (♥A, ♦QJ). Partner opened 1♦, East bid 2♣, you doubled for takeout, and West raised to 3♣. You must now decide whether to pass, bid, or double again.

Bid Choices

Pass – Might work, but too meek given values and support for partner.

Double – Implies willingness to defend clubs; not quite the right hand.

3♦ – Natural, competitive, and keeps the auction alive.

3♥ – Slightly misleading; hearts are good but not necessarily the strain partner wants.

What the Experts Say

- Marty Bergen – Bid 3♦. “You must compete; diamonds are the safest call.”
- Mike Lawrence – Bid 3♦. “Partner expects you to support; passing is too soft.”
- Larry Cohen – Bid 3♦. “Keeps your side in the auction, supports partner.”

Question 6

Bid	Totals	3D	3H	PASS	X	4D
#	128	50	31	23	23	1
%	100%	39%	24%	18%	18%	1%

Comments:

- X - Partner, please bid a major.
- 3♥ - Showing 5. A bit risky, but partner might have 3-card support.
- 3♦ - Promises length in both majors with at least three diamonds. Partner can still bid three of a major, to play, because partner's pass over 3♣ just confirmed a hand that was too weak to immediately bid 3♥ or 3♠ over West's club raise.
- 3♦ - Hate to sell out to 3C. Partner can always bid a major now if they have one.
- X - Hopefully pard will take this as a request to do something intelligent. If he has 3 Hearts, hoping he will bid 3H. If not, that he will retreat to 3♦ where I have support, or perhaps 3♠ holding 3. I could just bid 3♦ which might be the superior call.

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