



## Weekly Bridge Quiz #33

Canada's results with Chat & a few comments - 2025



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

**S- A 5 4    H- A J 9    D- K Q 8 3    C- J 4 2**

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

**Pros' Answer:** This hand is worth an invitation. Bid **2NT** and then pass should partner bid 3H, showing a minimum. Bid 4H over any maximum.

**ChatGPT's Response:**

### Expert Analysis:

- HCP: 16; Hearts with partner: 3; Total = 19.
- Rule of 17: Since total exceeds 17, classic teaching says you can safely bid game in partner's suit without inquiry — bid 4♥ immediately.
- This assumes partner's 2♥ has reasonable suit quality (two of the top three honors or three of the top five).
- Modern expert caution: With a flat 4-3-3-3 hand and suit quality unknown, many prefer using Ogust (2NT) to confirm strength/suit before committing.
- Plan: If using Ogust, pass 3♥ (minimum) or bid 4♥ (maximum), adjust for intermediate replies.

### Recommended Bids:

- Classic Rule of 17 approach: 4♥ immediately.
- Modern expert approach: 2NT (Ogust), then 4♥ if partner shows maximum/acceptable suit.

### Question 1

Bid	Totals	2NT	4H	3H	PASS
#	131	62	49	13	7
%	100%	47%	37%	10%	5%

### Comments from a few participants:

- 2NT - I agree with the Pro, in that 2NT is an artificial bid that asks for more information. When using "standard" responses, opener is expected to rebid a side-suit to show a maximum (i.e., 9 to 11 HCP) and a "feature" (which normally shows the Ace or King), or to rebid the opened major to show a minimum (i.e., 8 or less HCP). But if playing 2NT as a conventional inquiry called Ogust, my suggested responses, in ascending steps, are as follows: 3C and 3D identify minimums, where 3C identifies a bad suit (i.e., a suit that lacks two of the top three honors) and 3D identifies a good suit (i.e., a suit that contains two of the top three honors), 3H and 3S identify maximums, where 3H identifies a bad suit and 3S identifies a good one.

Note that when opener's rebid shows a good suit, responder can, on a normal 3-2 division of that suit, expect to take six tricks in no-trump when holding AX, KX or QX. Furthermore, a 3NT rebid confirms a suit topped with the AKQ. An alternative to Ogust, a partnership can switch to **64Ogust**, where a 3NT response shows a maximum with four cards in the other major, hence a 6-4 major-suit distribution. In this case, one can continue to use the 3C through 3S responses described above, or (if so agreed by the partnership) switch to the following: 3C and 3D show bad suits where 3D shows a maximum, rebidding the other major shows a maximum with a good suit, and rebidding the opened major shows a minimum with a good suit. For example, one can open 2H on a hand like KJXX, AJTXXX, XX, X and not worry about missing a fit in spades when responder has the strength to bid 2NT as a 64Ogust inquiry.

- 2NT - Hoping for any positive response that will get us to the game.
- 2NT - Game may or may not be there, depending on partner's hand, so I'm inquiring with a 2NT bid.
- 4♥ - With a great H fit and good supporting hand for partner ("Rule of 17"), I'm bidding 4H. I certainly don't want to defend holding AJx in H. Yes, the shape isn't great (no ruffing value in the short hand), but I'm hoping partner will have good shape and no wasted values. I've learned the hard way that if you start doubting yourself on these types of hands (e.g., making asking bids when you don't need to...), then you will never benefit from the law of averages...
- 4♥ - Adding my HCPs and Hearts sums to 18. The Rule of 17 suggests 4♥ is the call.

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

**S- A J 5 3 2    H- Q 8 6 4    D- 9 4    C- A 8**

As dealer, what call would you make?

**Pros' Answer:** 9 cards in the majors and an expected easy rebid makes this hand worth an opening bid. Bid **1S**.

**ChatGPT's Response:**

**Expert Analysis:**

- 9 cards in the majors, 11 HCP, easy rebid options — opens well at any form of scoring.
- 1♠ keeps all options open; if partner bids 1NT, you can bid 2♥ to show 5-4 shape.
- Pass would be too conservative with two quick tricks (A♠, A♣) and major fit potential.

**Recommended Bid:** 1♠.

Question 2			
Bid	Totals	1S	PASS
#	131	113	18
%	100%	86%	14%

**Comments from a few participants:**

- 1S - I agree with the Pro. With seven losers, two quick tricks, and length in both majors, it is my opinion that the hand is worth opening 1S, with a planned rebid in hearts on the next round.
- 1♠ - Rule of 20+2. 11 HCP + 9 cards in 2 suits and 2 quick tricks. Also, I have an easy rebid of 2♥ over any response by my partner.
- 1♠ - It's borderline, as per the rule of 20(+2). Having a (2H) rebid after a 1NT response made me decide to open the hand.
- 1♠ - Good 11 count, with 2 quick tricks, and a rebid (2H) to easily pattern out makes this an easy 1♠ opening bid. Imo, those who choose to pass this hand are not being aggressive enough in today's game (e.g., the J of D doubleton wouldn't change the evaluation for this hand...).
- 1♠ - 11 HCPs and a point for the long spades. Meets the rule of 20 and 22.. On the cusp for sure but bidding 1♠ forces the opps immediately.

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

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

<b>SOUTH</b>	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<b>1S</b>	Pass	2S	Pass

**?**

What call would you make?

**Pros' Answer:** This is a nice hand, but it is not worth an invitation. **Pass.**

**ChatGPT's Response:**

**Expert Analysis:**

- 14 HCP but concentrated in spades — minimal extra playing strength outside the suit.
- Partner's 2♠ is typically 6–9 HCP; game may be thin unless partner has a max with shape.
- No side suit source of tricks; slam is impossible, and game may be risky.
- Conservative choice avoids going minus when game is under 50% chance.

**Recommended Bid:** **Pass.**

**Question 3**

Bid	Totals	PASS	3S	2NT	3C
#	131	117	10	2	2
%	100%	89%	8%	2%	2%

**Comments from a few participants:**

- Pass. I agree with the Pro. This hand has seven losers, making it too weak to try for game. However, should the opponents balance in a suit at the three level, a competitive 3♠ can be bid because, should that contract be doubled, down one not vulnerable is only minus 100.
- P - I play constructive raises, i.e. 7-10 HCP + 3-card support. I'd love to invite, but several things deter me:
  1. Flat distribution - 5332.
  2. I think we have some duplication of values.
  3. Which suit should I ask for help with?
- P - Game is unlikely to be there, with all those losers in the minor suits.
- P - Partner's points are clearly outside of S but even if you give her a max for a constructive raise (i.e., a bad 10 count), then game is impossible. Those who use the rebid of 3M as a blocking bid in such auctions gain some tactical advantages (i.e., blocking the opponents from balancing/competing).
- P - Pard has presumably 8 or 9 points and 3 Spades, playing 2/1. I see too many losers for game to be likely.

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

**S- A 10 4    H- A Q 9 4    D- A K Q 8    C- A 7**

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>
<b>2C</b>	Pass	2D	Pass
<b>2NT</b>	Pass	3H*	Pass
<b>?</b>			

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\* Transfer to spades

What call would you make?

Pros' Answer: After a 1NT opening and a transfer, you need 4-card support to jump in partner's suit. Not so after higher no-trump openings. Bid **4S**.

### ChatGPT's Response:

#### Expert Analysis:

- Opener's 2NT rebid shows 22–24 HCP, balanced. Even opposite a bust, game in a major is usually right — the high-card base covers many losers.
- Expert majority style: Transfers after a 2NT opening or rebid are assumed game-forcing. With 3+ trumps, opener jumps straight to **4♠**, avoiding the risk that responder passes **3♠** with game available.
- Alternative cautious style: Some partnerships treat a transfer after 2NT as potentially non-forcing and complete it at the 3-level when holding minimum trump support, leaving the decision to responder. This protects against rare cases where responder's hand has no game play despite the high-card total (e.g., a freak distribution with all points in short suits).
- In this hand, the strong controls, 3-card support, and high probability of game success led most experts to bypass **3♠** and bid game immediately.
- Slam exploration is unaffected — if responder had interest, they'd continue after **4♠** with cue bids or Keycard.

#### Recommended Bids:

- Game-forcing partnership style: **4♠** immediately.
- Cautious non-forcing style: **3♠**, letting responder decide.

#### Question 4

Bid	Totals	3S	4S	3NT	4C	4D	4H	4NT
#	131	58	55	7	4	4	2	1
%	100%	44%	42%	5%	3%	3%	2%	1%

#### Comments from a few participants:

- 4♦ - I disagree with the Pro. 4♦ shows a very good hand -- better than a 4♠ super accept -- with 3+ spades, 4+ cards in a strong diamond suit, and a likely doubleton -- meaning a ruffing value -- in clubs or hearts. If weak, responder can bid either 4S to play, or 4H to retransfer to 4♠ to allow opener -- the stronger hand -- to declare the contract. A play for 4S exists even if partner holds a hand like XXXXX, JTX, XX, XXX, where a 3-2 break in spades and a successful finesse in hearts should do the trick. However, after my descriptive 4♦ bid, partner should consider a slam if holding a hand like KQXXX, JXX, JXX, XX, which requires only a 3-2 break in spades.
- 3♠ - A great hand, but only 3-card support. Don't hang your partner out to dry for trying to improve the contract. With 4-card support and a singleton Club, I would bid 4S.
- 3♠ - Partner knows my point count. If she has anything at all, she will bid again, whereas if all she has is a few spades, we are unlikely to make game.
- 3♠ - If 2♦\* was just a waiting bid, then I'm just accepting the transfer and bidding 3♠ here and see what partner does next (same decision if 2♦\* was positive waiting and GF). I'm NOT captain in this auction; I have already disclosed my values (22-24 hcp) and shape (balanced/semi-balanced) and I trust my partner to take it from there after the re-evaluation. "Murphy's 1st Law of Duplicate Bridge: Partner will be weaker when you're stronger." Partner can have NOTHING; if she does, then I won't be able to communicate with her hand to help me in the play which means I don't need to be in an impossible and BAD game at matchpoints, which is why I do NOT super-accept with these types of hands.

Change the hand to something like AKxx AQJ AKQ8 xx -- i.e., same hcp count but completely different hand in terms of playability in S once partner Jacoby Transfers -- and I will definitely super-accept with 4S.

- 3♠ - Not sure if this is a trick question by the Pro. I have described my hand as 22-24 HCPs with a NT distribution. No reason to do anything other than accept the transfer. A Super Accept here would require 4 Spades in my view.

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

**S- K J 7 5 3    H- 5    D- A K 9 8    C- K 10 4**

**WEST    NORTH    EAST    SOUTH**

3H    Pass    Pass    ?

What call would you make?

**Pros' Answer: Double (X). You might miss a 5-3 spade fit, but you can miss much more if you bid 3S.**

**ChatGPT's Response:**

**Expert Analysis:**

- Excellent defense (A K ♦, K ♣) plus possible major suit fit.
- Double here is takeout-oriented, showing short hearts and support for unbid suits.
- Direct 3♠ risks missing other games or part-scores in clubs/diamonds.
- Partner will often choose spades anyway if fit exists.

**Recommended Bid: X (Double).**

**Question 5**

Bid	Totals	X	3S	PASS
#	131	63	53	15
%	100%	48%	40%	11%

**Comments from a few participants:**

- X - I agree with the Pro. The balancing double is flexible, in that we can play 3H doubled, 3S (or 4S), 3N or either minor above 3N, depending on what bid partner chooses. I do not recommend balancing with 3S when holding such a weak spade suit, and at least three-card support for both minors.
- X - You have great support for the other 3 suits, and your Spade suit, while decent, is not awe-inspiring.
- X - what else can I do?
- 3♠ - With the stiff H, I have enough shape and strength to balance here with 3S. A takeout X here is another option, but partner would never believe I have 5 cards in S (this is matchpoints). (With the same values and shape but weaker S, I would probably lean towards bidding a takeout X.)
- X - I have support for the other suits. Tempting to just overcall 3S. But I want to get pard involved. He'll know I likely have at least 4 Spades for my bid.

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

**S- K 10 7 6    H- K 7    D- Q J 6 4    C- K 6 2**

NORTH	EAST	<b>SOUTH</b>	WEST
1C	2H	<b>X*</b>	Pass
3C	Pass	<b>?</b>	

\* Negative

What call would you make?

**Pros' Answer:** There is no clearly winning decision here – just make your best guess. Our guess is to bid **3NT**.

**ChatGPT's Response:**

**Expert Analysis:**

- Balanced 13 HCP with heart stopper: no clear major fit.
- Partner's 3♣ suggests at least 6 clubs and extra shape but not necessarily game-forcing.
- 3NT is possible if partner has heart stopper or entries; alternative is 3♦, showing values.
- Vulnerable at matchpoints, 3NT may score better than a minor-suit game.

**Recommended Bid: 3NT (practical choice).**

**Question 6**

Bid	Totals	<b>3NT</b>	3H	PASS	4C	5C	3D
#	131	75	22	17	10	5	2
%	100%	57%	17%	13%	8%	4%	2%

**Comments from a few participants:**

- 3NT - I agree with the Pro. This contract should be playable on a heart opening lead, even if partner holds a minimum. I am hoping that partner has six clubs to the AQ, or seven clubs to the Ace.
- 3NT - You do have a Heart stopper, good Club support (therefore 5+ tricks), and surely your partner has another Ace besides the Club suit.
- 3♥ - A 3NT game try. If partner has no heart stopper, we should be safe in 4C.
- 3NT - Easy call here with no S fit with partner and GF-values. If partner truly has long C, then my Kxx are huge cards with respect to fit, especially if she has AQxxx(x); assuming that, she will have other working values in the other suits to help (she wouldn't be able to open the deal if she didn't...). Bidding 3N will right-side this contract and protect the K of H on opening lead. Even if West doesn't lead a H, the tempo gain may still be all I need to make 3NT (with possible over-tricks).
- 3NT - We should have close to enough for game and I have a Heart stopper. 5♣ would be unlikely to make and pard obviously isn't interested in playing in Spades. Passing is not an option with my good hand.

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