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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

[] Federal Funds Open Rate

[] Treasury Rate

[] LIBOR Reuters

[x] LIBOR Telerate

Form 424B3

October 22, 2002

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 40 Rule 424(b)(3) DATED: October 17, 2002 File No. 333-76894 (To Prospectus dated January 25, 2002, and Prospectus Supplement dated January 25, 2002) \$10,006,693,162 THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC. MEDIUM-TERM NOTES, SERIES B Principal Amount: \$229,400,000 Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x] Original Issue Date: 10/22/2002 Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes [] CUSIP#: 073928XW8 Maturity Date: 10/22/2004 Option to Extend Maturity: No [x] Yes [] Final Maturity Date: Optional Optional Repayment Repayment Date(s) Price(s) Redemption
Redeemable On Price(s) N/A N/A N/A N/A Applicable Only to Fixed Rate Notes: Interest Rate: Interest Payment Dates: Applicable Only to Floating Rate Notes: _____ Interest Rate Basis: Maximum Interest Rate: N/A [] Commercial Paper Rate Minimum Interest Rate: N/A [] Federal Funds Effective Rate

[] Prime Rate
[] CMT Rate
Initial Interest Rate: 2.27875 Interest Payment Period: Quarterly
Index Maturity: Three Months
Spread (plus or minus): +0.45%

Interest Reset Date(s): *

Interest Reset Period: Quarterly

Interest Payment Date(s): **

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- * On the 22nd of each January, April, July and October prior to Maturity.
- ** On the 22nd of each January, April, July and October, including the maturity date.

The distribution of Notes will conform to the requirements set forth in Rule 2720 of the NASD Conduct Rules.