

## Esther Discusses

### "Executing an '*Elimination Endplay*' in a Suit Contract Along With Some Planful Discards of 'Losers'"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen<sup>1</sup>

To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:

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**Bruce:** Today, we are honored to have with us Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, Quintuple Gold Emerald Life Master (20 Million+ ACBL MasterPoints), who will talk us through "**Executing an '*Elimination Endplay*' in a Suit Contract Along With Some Planful Discards of 'Losers'**". Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, thanks for taking the time to be with us today!

**Esther:** D\*\*n it, Bruce! How many times do I have to tell you to **NEVER, ever** call me Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen! Always, **ALWAYS, ALWAYS** instead call me, Esther, because I am such a "warm and caring" person!

**Bruce:** Errr, well, in any case, Esther, would you begin first by telling us what you mean by an "**Elimination Endplay**"?

**Esther:** Well, my *inquisitive interlocutor*, I will certainly try to help you.

**Bruce:** Errr, well, Esther... Are you actually being *nice* to me?

**Esther:** Well, my *studious salamander*, of course I am being "nice" to you! Why wouldn't I be "nice" to you?

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<sup>1</sup> As noted in an article in the Winter/Spring, 2024 article in The American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Journal, [https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA\\_1\\_24.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA_1_24.pdf), Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

Well, in any case, an "**Elimination Endplay**" involves "stripping" Opponents of cards and then putting an Opponent "on lead" in a situation where the Opponent must lead one of his remaining Suits in a manner that creates the optimal outcome for the Declarer. I taught this, for example, in my November, 2023 "Esther Bridge Dialogue Lesson #66: **Esther Discusses What is an 'Elimination Endplay' by Declarer, and How Does Declarer Perform an 'Elimination Endplay'?**":  
<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/endplay.pdf>

**Bruce:** Errr, well, Ms. Klinktoast..., err, I mean Esther. Well, errr..., can you talk us through a bridge Board involving a Declarer executing this "**Elimination Endplay**"?

**Esther:** Well, my *gracious giver*, I will certainly try to help you! As you know, I have previously recommended the bridge lessons on the *free* "**BBO Bridge Master**" website:  
<https://www.bridgebase.com/v3/anon/bridgemaster>

The "**BBO Bridge Master**" website allows you to declare your skill level, then shows a series of Hands and announces the final contract, each of which you then play as Declarer. At the end of play you can then request a solution in which the optimal "Line of Play" is discussed step by step.

I have even posted a "Map" of BBO Bridge Master lessons covering various topics (e.g., "**Elimination Endplay**", "**Squeeze Play**", "**Loser-on-Loser Play**", "**Distribution Safety Play**", "**Dummy Reversal Play**") and the corresponding "**Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quizzes**" that elaborate on these BBO lessons:

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/MAP.pdf>

**Bruce:** Errr, well, Ms. Klinktoast..., err, I mean Esther. Well, errr..., which BBO Bridge Master lesson will you be using today in this "**Esther Bridge Dialogue Lesson**"?

**Esther:** Well, my *studly Studebaker*, in today's "**Esther Bridge Dialogue Lesson**" I am going to use "**BBO Bridge Master**" Level 5 Lesson **B-16**. Here is the Board from that lesson, but I should point out that I have altered some of the cards in some of the Hands:

**BBO Bridge Master Level 5 Lesson B-16**

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (10)

**S:** A 5 4 3 2

**H:** 3

**D:** 4 3 2

**C:** A Q 6 5

WEST (8)

**S:** 7 6

**H:** Q J T 9 8

**D:** K Q 5

**C:** T 9 8

EAST (7)

**S:** 8

**H:** K 7 6 5 4

**D:** 9 8 7 6

**C:** K J 7

SOUTH (15)

**S:** K Q J T 9

**H:** A 2

**D:** A J T

**C:** 4 3 2

**Bidding**

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 <b>S</b>	PASS	2 <b>C</b>	PASS
2 <b>NT</b>	PASS	4 <b>S</b>	PASS
PASS	PASS		

WEST leads his Heart Queen as the "top" of "touching" Honors. Declarer SOUTH "wins" Trick #1 with his own Heart Ace.

**Bruce:** Errr, well, Esther... Ummm... Surely Declarer SOUTH can see "shortness" in Hearts in both the N/S Hands. Therefore, there is little danger that EAST or WEST will ruff a Heart on Trick #2. So, on Trick #2 Declarer SOUTH leads a "low" Heart from his "closed" Hand for a ruff by the NORTH Dummy.

**Esther:** Well, Bruce, I certainly agree.

**Bruce:** Errr, well, Esther... N/S together hold 5 + 5 = 10 Trump Spade cards including 6 of the "top" 6 Spades. Isn't now the time for Declarer SOUTH to "draw" Trump?

**Esther:** Well, my *curious carnivore*, you are exactly correct! On Tricks #3 and #4 Declarer SOUTH "drops" all 3 "missing" Trump Spades. Note that SOUTH has now "stripped" E/W of the capacity to successfully lead either Major.

**Bruce:** Errr, well, Esther... Now what should Declarer SOUTH lead on Trick #5?

**Esther:** Well, Bruce, Declarer SOUTH on Trick #5 SOUTH should "cash" the NORTH Dummy Club Ace. Then on Trick #6 Declarer SOUTH should exit the NORTH Dummy with a "low" Club. EAST "wins" Trick #6 with his Club Jack.

On Trick #7 EAST exits with a Diamond. SOUTH tries a finesse with the Diamond Ten knowing that even if the Diamond finesse fails his own Diamond Jack will still be "promoted". WEST "wins" with his Diamond Queen.

**Bruce:** Errr, well, Esther... After Trick #7 N/S have "won" 5 Tricks and E/W have "won" 2 Tricks. The 6 cards now held in the 4 Hands are:

	NORTH (10)	
	S: A 5	
	H:	
	D: 4 3	
	C: Q 6	
WEST (8)		EAST (7)
S:		S:
H: J T 9		H: K 7
D: K 5		D: 9 8 7
C: T		C: K
	SOUTH (15)	
	S: J T 9	
	H:	
	D: A J	
	C: 4	

**Esther:** Well, Bruce, you are correct once again! Declarer SOUTH has now "endplayed" WEST. Every choice of a lead by WEST on Trick #8 leads to an *unfavorable* result for E/W:

1. If on Trick #8 WEST leads a Heart Declarer SOUTH can *both* (1) ruff in the NORTH Dummy and (2) discard his "loser" Diamond Jack.
2. If on Trick #8 WEST returns a Diamond N/S will "lose" 1 remaining Diamond Trick but also later "win" 1 Diamond Trick.
3. If on Trick #8 WEST returns a Club EAST will "win" with his Club King but the 2<sup>nd</sup> Club in the NORTH Dummy will be "promoted" into a certain later "winner" on which Declarer SOUTH can discard his Diamond Jack "loser".

Declarer SOUTH will exactly "make" his 4S contract thanks to an "Elimination Endplay".



**Esther says:**

“Why not proceed *immediately* to ‘**Bridge Base Online Bridge Master**’ Level-5 Lesson #**B-16** to practice executing the play of this Board where both Pairs held “fit” in different Suits? Search ‘BBO’, then Click ‘Bridge Master’, then Click ‘Play’, then Click ‘Level 5’, then Click ‘B-16’. You can play this Board *repeatedly* in Bridge Master for *free!*”

**Esther also says...**

“I have now prepared a ‘Map’ of all the ‘**Esther Bridge ‘Pop’ Quizzes**’ that use ‘BBO Bridge Master’ lessons to teach the ‘*Squeeze Play*’, the ‘*Elimination Endplay*’, the ‘*Loser-on-Loser Play*’, the ‘*Unblocking Play*’, and the ‘*Dummy Reversal Play*’”:

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/MAP.pdf>