

"Bill Root's *Extreme Example of a Declarer Executing a 'Jettison Unblocking Play'*"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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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 **"Bill Root's *Extreme Example of a Declarer Executing a 'Jettison Unblocking Play'*"**. 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 so "warm and caring"!

Bruce: Errr, well, sorry again about that, Ms. Klinktoast..., err, I mean Esther.

Esther: Well, Bruce. Please try to exercise at least a modicum of empathy, assuming you have at least the limited capacity to do so. Can you imagine how relentlessly all the other girls in grades K through 4 of my elementary school years relentlessly, endlessly tormented me about my last name, Klinktoast-Houstonhousen?

Bruce: Well, yes, sorry again, Esther! Well, Esther, at the outset, would you remind us what a **"Jettison Play"** or **"Jettison Unblocking Play"** is?

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¹ 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, Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So this article was really, really written by **Bruce Thompson**.

Esther: Well, Bruce, I will certainly try to help you. Well, a "**Jettison Unblocking Play**" involves the Declarer discarding "top" Honors in order to "unblock" a "long" Suit held in the other Hand that the Declarer controls. I have previously discussed this bridge play in my "Esther Bridge Dialogue Lesson #155: When Playing a Difficult Contract as Declarer the '**Jettison Play**' Can Be Very Helpful":

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

Today's lesson involves discussion of an extreme example of the "**Jettison Unblocking Play**" presented by Bill Root in his award-winning 1990 bridge book, How to Play a Bridge Hand.

Bruce: Errr, well, sorry again about that, Ms. Klinktoast..., err, I mean Esther. Well, would you now tell us a little bit about the Bill Root fellow?

Esther: Well, Bruce, yes, indeed!

About Bill Root

William Root (1923 - 2002) was an American professional bridge player, teacher, and writer. He was inducted into the ACBL Bridge Hall of fame in 1997. Root won **14** North American Bridge Championships. He was runner-up in **9** others. Three of his books were named "Bridge Book of the Year" by the American Bridge Teachers' Association: (1) Commonsense Bidding (1987), How to Play a Bridge Hand (1990), and How to Defend a Bridge Hand (1994).

Bill Root also was the bridge Partner of Richard Pavlicek for more than **20** years. Esther bases quite a few of her "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quizzes" and "Esther Bridge Dialogue Lessons" on some of Pavlicek's newspaper bridge columns.

Bruce: Well, Esther, OK. Would you go ahead and talk us through Root's "extreme" example of a "**Jettison Unblocking Play**"?

Esther: Well, Bruce, of course! This Board involves Declarer SOUTH playing an ambitious **7NT** contract:

	NORTH (13)	
	S: A Q	
	H: K Q J	
	D: 3	
	C: J 9 7 6 5 4 2	
WEST (2)		EAST (0)
S: J T 2		S: 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
H: T 8 7 4		H: 9 8 5 3 2
D: J 7 5 2		D: --
C: 8 3		C: T
	SOUTH (25)	
	S: K	
	H: A	
	D: A K Q T 9 8 6 4	
	C: A K Q	

WEST leads his Spade Jack as the "top" of a Major thus "promising" the "touching" Spade Ten.

1. Declarer SOUTH "wins" Trick **#1** with his Spade Ace and discards his own Spade King. [Discards so far: ♠K]
 2. On Trick **#2** SOUTH "cashes" the NORTH Dummy's Spade Queen and discards his own Heart Ace. [Discards so far: ♠K, ♥A]
 3. On Tricks **#3-#5** Declarer SOUTH "cashes" the NORTH Dummy's Heart K,Q,J discarding his own Club A,K,Q thus "unblocking" the "long" Clubs in the NORTH Dummy. [Discards so far: ♠K, ♥A, ♣A, ♣K, ♣Q]
 4. On Trick **#6** Declarer SOUTH "cashes" the NORTH Dummy's Club Jack and EAST's Club Ten "drops" and WEST "follows". On Tricks **#7-#12** Declarer SOUTH "runs" the rest of Dummy's Club "winners". If the E/W Club Ten had not "dropped" on Trick **#6** Declarer SOUTH would have "switched" to try "running" his own Diamonds, but this would have failed on this Board given the E/W 4-0 Diamond "split" and WEST holding the Diamond J,x,x,x. SOUTH preferred trying to run Clubs rather than because N/S together initially held 7 + 3 = **10** Clubs but only 1 + 8 = **9** Diamonds.
 5. On Trick **#13** Declarer SOUTH leads the Dummy Diamond toward his own Diamond Ace "winner".
- Declarer SOUTH "made" his 7**NT** contract thanks to his prudently "jettisoning" his own Honors worth 3 + 4 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 3 + 2 = **21** HCPs!



Esther says...

To see a listing of some other *highly unusual* and *interesting* bridge Boards go to Esther's web posting, **"Some Fascinating / Interesting Bridge Boards / Hands"**:

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