

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0085:
"When Playing a Suit Contract as Declarer,
as a *Beginner* Can You Avoid
This *Fundamental Error*?"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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Board #11

Knoxville 499er 8/24

DLR: **SOUTH**

Vul: **NONE**

		NORTH (12)	
		S: J 9 7	
		H: A K Q J T	
		D: J 9 3	
		C: T 3	
WEST (6)			EAST (10)
S: K T 3			S: Q 6 5 4 2
H: 8 5 4			H: 9 7
D: T 6 4			D: A Q 5
C: K 8 5 2			C: Q 9 4
		SOUTH (12)	
		S: A 8	
		H: 6 3 2	
		D: K 8 7 2	
		C: A J 7 6	

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 C	PASS	1 H	1 S
2 D	2 S	3 H	PASS
4 H ²	PASS	PASS	PASS

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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.

² SOUTH's taking the contract to 4**H** seems improvident. This is a competitive auction with all 4 Players bidding, and NORTH can see 2 Spade, 2 Diamond, and 2 Club potential losers.

The bidding on Board **#11** by both Partnerships is reasonably straightforward. **26** of **36** N/S Pairs played a Heart contract on this Board. Here are the results for these **26** N/S Pairs:

1. **7** N/S Pairs made **4** on bids of either **3H** or **4H** NORTH.
2. **16** N/S Pairs made **3** on bids of either **2H**, **3H** or **4H** NORTH.
3. **3** N/S Pairs made **2** on bids of either **3H** or **4H** NORTH, thus going set **-1** or **-2**.

Let's explore Declarer's "Play of the Hand" at one of the Tables where NORTH played at **4H** contract and went down **2**.

The first 4 Tricks were played as follows:

1. As expected, on Trick **#1** EAST led a Spade, his Spade 6. Declarer NORTH "ducked" in the SOUTH Dummy by playing the Dummy's Spade 8. WEST won Trick #1 with his Spade King.
2. As expected, on Trick **#2** WEST then led his Spade 3, which Declarer NORTH won in the SOUTH Dummy with the Spade Ace.
3. On Trick **#3**, Declarer NORTH led the Heart 2 from the SOUTH Dummy, and proceeded to "draw" 2 Rounds of Trump during Tricks **#3** and **#4**.

At this point in play N/S have taken **3** Tricks, and E/W have take **1** Trick. At Trick **#5** Declarer NORTH is "in his Hand", and here are the cards then held by all 4 Players:

	NORTH (12)	
	S: J	
	H: Q J T	
	D: J 9 3	
	C: T 3	
WEST (6)		EAST (10)
S: T		S: Q 5 4
H: 8		H:
D: T 6 4		D: A Q 5
C: K 8 5 2		C: Q 9 4
	SOUTH (12)	
	S:	
	H: 6	
	D: K 8 7 2	
	C: A J 7 6	

1. Sitting NORTH as Declarer, what should you lead from your Hand on Trick **#5**?

To see Esther's **suggested answer**, CLICK:
<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0085 a.pdf>