

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0097:
"Leading Against Opponents' 3NT Contract When
Responder Bid Stayman and
Opener Denied a 4-Card Major"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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Board #5

Knoxville 499er 10/04/24

DLR: NORTH

Vul: N/S

NORTH (10)

S: J T 9 8

H: K 9

D: K Q T 7

C: J T 5

WEST (10)

S: 6 5 3 2

H: A J 5

D: J 5 4 3

C: A 9

EAST (16)

S: A K 7

H: T 7 6

D: A 9

C: K Q 8 6 3

SOUTH (4)

S: Q 4

H: Q 8 4 3 2

D: 8 6 2

C: 7 4 2

Bidding

<i>NORTH</i>	<i>EAST</i>	<i>SOUTH</i>	<i>WEST</i>
<i>PASS</i>	<i>1NT</i>	<i>PASS</i>	<i>2C</i>
<i>PASS</i>	<i>2D</i>	<i>PASS</i>	<i>3NT</i>
<i>PASS</i>	<i>PASS</i>	<i>PASS</i>	

*SOUTH leads the Heart 3, the card 4th from the top of his
"longest and strongest" Suit so that Partner can invoke the very*

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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.

important "**Rule of 11**". By subtracting $11 - 3 = 8$ NORTH, holding **2** Hearts higher than the led Heart 3, and seeing that Dummy holds **3** Hearts higher than the led Heart 3, knows that Declarer EAST holds $8 - 3 - 2 = 3$ Heart cards higher than SOUTH's led Heart 3. Declarer EAST invokes the "**Rule of 7**" and seeing that the E/W Partnership holds $3 + 3 = 6$, because $7 - 6 = 1$, "ducks" or "holds up" winning with Dummy WEST's Heart Ace for **1** Round.

1. Sitting NORTH, on lead on Trick **#2** what would you lead?

To see Esther's **suggested answer**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0097_a1.pdf