

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0112:**  
**"Tips for Bridge Declarers: Even in Suit  
Contracts Count Your 'Winners' to Help Formulate  
Your Best 'Line of Play'"**

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

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**Ron Klinger** (1941- ) is an Australian contract bridge player who has written more than **70** bridge books including his 1990 book, Guide to Better Card Play, which won the "American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Bridge Book of the Year Award." His book, Right Through the Pack Again, won the 2010 "International Bridge Press Association Book of the Year Award." He was Editor of Australian Bridge for 13 years (1972-1985). For many years he has written, and still currently writes, a weekly bridge column for both the Sydney Morning Herald and The Sun-Herald.

Klinger is also the inventor of the Ron Klinger "**Suit Quality Test ('SQT') Score**". The "**SQT Score**" is computed by adding together (1) the number of cards you hold in a Suit plus (2) the number of Honors (including the Ten) that you hold in the Suit. *Suit contracts* set no higher than "**SQT Score**" - 6 are generally pretty "safe". Some of the present discussion is drawn from **Tip #74** (p. 113) from Ron Klinger's 2003 book, 100 WINNING BRIDGE TIPS for the Improving Player. The example Board was modified by Esther.

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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.

Dealer: **NORTH**  
Vul: **NONE**

NORTH (6)

**S:** 3  
**H:** K Q J 9 5 4 2  
**D:** 8 3  
**C:** T 5 4

SOUTH (12)

**S:** 8 7 6 4 2  
**H:** A T 8  
**D:** A 7  
**C:** A 6 3

**Bidding**

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
3 <b>H</b>	PASS	4 <b>H</b>	PASS
PASS	PASS	PASS	

1. Was NORTH's opening bid of 3**H** "correct"?
2. Was SOUTH's bid of 4**H** as Responder "correct"?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0112\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0112_a1.pdf)