

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0117:**  
**"As Declarer, Think in Formulating Your 'Line of Play', in Making Your *Card Selections*, and in *Placing Opponents' 'Key' Cards*"**

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

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

<https://esther-bridge.com/index.html>

To return to the "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quizzes", CLICK:

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Esther on her "**Esther Bridge Lessons**" website has previously recommended the "**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. The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" question is drawn from "**BBO Bridge Master**" Level-2 **Lesson B-26**. Note that across repeated play "**BBO Bridge Master**" may change some Hands in given lessons.

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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.

NORTH (13)

**S:** 7 6 5  
**H:** J T 9 8  
**D:** A Q  
**C:** K Q J T

SOUTH (10)

**S:** A K Q J 9 8 4  
**H:** 4 3 2  
**D:** 4 3 2  
**C:** --

**Bidding**

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

WEST on lead takes **3** Heart Tricks "off the top." On Trick **#3** EAST plays his Club 6 thus in this Partnership possibly suggesting a Club lead. Thus, Declarer SOUTH **must** take every remaining Trick to "make" his **4S** contract.

After Trick **#3** WEST knows that both EAST and Declarer SOUTH are now void in Hearts. On Trick **#4** WEST leads his Heart 5, Declarer SOUTH plays the NORTH Dummy Heart Jack, and EAST ruffs with his Spade 2.

1. Sitting SOUTH as Declarer what would you play on Trick **#4** in order to both (1) "win" Trick **#4** and (2) protect your **4S** contract?
2. Sitting SOUTH what would be your initial plan for your "Line of Play"?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0117\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0117_a1.pdf)