

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0133:
"More on Developing Your 'Line of Play'
As Declarer in a Suit Contract"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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Editor's Note. The present "**Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz**" uses ideas and a Board presented in Michael Berkowitz's excellent article, "Lessons Learned: Watch Out for the Racoons," published in the April, 2025 issue of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin (p.58). Esther may have somewhat modified the Board presented in the article.

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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.

NORTH (8)

S: 4 3
H: 7 5 4 2
D: K 8 2
C: K Q T 3

WEST (12 or 14)

S: A 6 5
H: ? 3
D: Q J T 3
C: A 8 6 5

EAST (1 or 3)

S: 7 2
H: ? 9 8 7
D: 9 7 4
C: 9 7 4 2

SOUTH (17)

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

Note. The locations of the Heart King and Heart Jack are hidden except to say that these Honors "split".

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1S	PASS	1NT*	PASS
3S	PASS	4S	PASS
PASS	PASS		

*The N/S Partners are playing the "2 Over 1" convention. NORTH's first bid as Responder (1) denies holding 3+ Spades and/or more than 11 HCPs, (2) shows 6-11 HCPs and (3) is "Forcing" for 1 Round.

WEST on lead on Trick #1 plays the Diamond Queen thus "promising" the Diamond Jack and "length" in Diamonds or a Q,x Diamond doubleton.

1. Sitting SOUTH as Declarer, once the NORTH Dummy comes down, to formulate your initial "Line of Play" you must count your "losers". What are your "losers"?
2. Which "Line of Play" that will allow you to "dump" your "losers" should you prefer?
3. Once you as the SOUTH Declarer are "on lead", should you immediately draw Trump?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0133_a1.pdf