

## Esther "Pop" Quiz #0145:

**"A Lesson for Beginners: As Declarer, Reading the Lead, Ruffing in the Hand Holding the Most Trump Cards, and Finessing Only When You Must"**

**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:

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

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-1 **Lesson B-12**. Note that across repeated play "**BBO Bridge Master**" may change some Hands in given lessons. Esther may have altered some cards in some Hands.

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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.

## Board B-12, Level 1

NORTH (14)

**S:** K 4 3  
**H:** A K 2  
**D:** 4 3 2  
**C:** A 5 4 2

SOUTH (10)

**S:** 6 5 2  
**H:** Q J T 9 8  
**D:** A Q J T  
**C:** 3

### Bidding

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

On lead WEST plays his Spade Queen. The NORTH Dummy comes "down".

1. Sitting SOUTH as Declarer you see that NORTH holds the Spade King. What does WEST's lead tell you about where the Spade Ace is "placed"?
2. How many "losers" do you see?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0145 a1.pdf>