

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0147:
**"As Declarer, When You Have *Few* Entries to
Dummy, Can You Select the *Optimal* Finesses?"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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: Well, Bruce, I will try to help you. *Fasten your seat belt, please!* First, however, I must advise you that the ideas presented in this lesson are derived from **Tip #2**, "With One Entry Take the Right Finesse" (pp. 11-13) in David Bird's 2005 book, **52 Great Bridge Tips on Declarer Play**. The bridge Boards presented here are also derived from Bird's book, but I have altered some of the Hands.

David Bird is a very highly regarded British bridge writer. He has authored more than 140 bridge books and has claimed that he is the most prolific bridge author of all time. He also is the bridge correspondent for both the Mail on Sunday and the London Evening Standard newspapers. He also over 30+ years has authored in Bridge Magazine a series of humorous bridge stories about fictional bridge-playing monks in the fictional St. Titus Monastery.

© Copyright, Bruce Thompson, 2025. All rights reserved.

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.

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (6)

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

WEST (9)

S: Q 8
H: Q 9 6 4 2
D: T 4
C: K Q T 5

EAST (10)

S: 9 3 2
H: A J 7 5
D: K Q 9
C: 9 8 6

SOUTH (15)

S: A K J T 5
H: K 3
D: A 8 7 5 2
C: 7

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1S	PASS	2S	PASS
4S	PASS	PASS	PASS

“It *often* happens that the high cards are located mainly in [D]eclarer’s [H]and and [D]ummy has *only one* entry. In this case you may have to judge which of two finesses you should take when you reach [D]ummy for the *first and last time*. One good rule is to finesse in the [S]uit where you will have a better residual chance in the other [S]uit.” (Bird, 2005, p. 11, italics added)

1. WEST leads the Club King. You win the NORTH Dummy with the Club Ace. You see that you may “lose” 2 Hearts and 2 Diamonds, so a finesse may be needed to “make” your 4S contract. Is it better for you to lead the NORTH Dummy Spade 4 to your “closed” (hidden) Hand Spade Jack or the NORTH Dummy Heart 8 to your “closed” Hand Heart King?

To see Esther’s **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0147_a1.pdf