

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0159:**  
**"More Sage Advice from David Bird's 2005 Book,**  
**52 Great Bridge Tips on Declarer Play:**  
**'Use the Entries to Dummy in the Trump Suit'"**

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

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

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**David Bird**

David Bird is a 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. Bird's 2005 treatise, **52 Great Bridge Tips on Declarer Play**, is one of these 140+ books. Bird 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.

The following Boards and ideas are from Tip #3 (pp. 14-16) from **52 Great Bridge Tips on Declarer Play**. Esther may have altered some of the cards in some of the Boards. The bidding is 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: **SOUTH**

NORTH (11)

**S:** A 7  
**H:** 8 6 5  
**D:** A T 8 5 3  
**C:** K 8 5

WEST (8)

**S:** 3  
**H:** Q J T 4 3  
**D:** K 7 2  
**C:** Q 9 7 3

EAST (3)

**S:** 6 5 2  
**H:** 9 7 2  
**D:** Q J 9 6  
**C:** T 4 2

SOUTH (18)

**S:** K Q J T 9 8 4  
**H:** A K  
**D:** 4  
**C:** A J 7

**Bidding**

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2C	PASS	3D	PASS
3S	PASS	4NT	PASS
5D*	PASS	6S	PASS
7S	PASS	PASS	PASS

\*N/S are playing the "Roman 'Key Card' 1430 Convention" in which this 5D response shows 3 cards from among the 4 Aces and the Trump Spade King.<sup>2</sup>

WEST leads the Heart Queen thus "promising" at least the Heart Jack.

1. "Entries" into a relatively weak Dummy are precious. How many entries to the NORTH Dummy can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. Should the SOUTH Declarer play the NORTH Dummy Club King and then play a finesse toward SOUTH's Club Jack?
3. If Declarer SOUTH does not run a Club finesse, how else can Declarer SOUTH sluff his Club 7 "loser"?

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<sup>2</sup> Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see: "Esther Convention Lesson #5: Responding to Partner's 'Strong' 2C Opening Bid":

[https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/2C\\_resp.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/2C_resp.pdf)

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
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