

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0167:
"Playing a 3NT Contract as Declarer When
Both Opponents Were Silent During the Auction"**

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 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 D-05**. 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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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: **NORTH**

Board D-05, Level 2

NORTH (18)

S: A Q
H: A J 6 3
D: A 5 4 2
C: Q J T

WEST (3)

S: T 9 8 7 6 4
H: 8 7
D: K T
C: 5 4 2

EAST (11)

S: 5 3 2
H: K Q T 9
D: Q J 9 8
C: K 3

SOUTH (8)

S: K J
H: 5 4 2
D: 7 6 3
C: A 9 8 7 6

Bidding

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 D	PASS	1 NT	PASS
2 NT	PASS	3 NT	PASS
PASS	PASS		

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Spade Ten that "promises" the Spade 9 and likely the Spade 8 and a "long" Spade Suit.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy comes "down" what "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What "pitfalls" can Declarer see that **must** be avoided to "make" his 3**NT** contract?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0167_a1.pdf