

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0237:
**"When Playing 3NT as Declarer 'Unblocking'
Dummy on Trick #1 in Order to Save the Contract"**

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-3 **Lesson D-01**. 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, the purported ACBL Double Triple Emerald Gold Platinum LifeMaster with 20+ million ACBL MasterPoints, in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So, this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

BBO Bridge Master Level 3 Lesson D-01

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (5)

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

WEST (3)

S: Q 5 4 3
H: 9 7 6
D: J 9 8 7
C: 8 6

EAST (10)

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

SOUTH (22)

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

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2 C	PASS	2 D*	PASS
2 NT	PASS	3 NT	PASS
PASS	PASS		

*N/S are playing a variation of the 2**C** response system described by Esther at:

https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/2C_resp.pdf

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Spade 3, 4th from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" Suit.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What Spade card should Declarer SOUTH play on Trick #1?
3. N/S hold 4 + 3 = 7 cards in both Minors. How can Declarer SOUTH play the Minors to try to secure an "extra" Trick or two?

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

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0237_a1.pdf