

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0251:  
"Playing as Declarer When in a 'Competitive'  
Auction Both Opponents Bid Hearts and You and  
Partner Bid Both Clubs and Spades and  
Your Final Contract is 4S"**

**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-4 **Lesson A-06**. 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, 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 4 **Lesson A-06** illustrates in SOUTH's initial bid the Marty Bergen principle, argued in his ACBL Bridge Bulletin Article from the December, 2024 Issue (p. 55) that "I have always believed that any suit headed by four honors should be treated as if it had an additional card." The illustrative BBO Bridge Master Hand held by SOUTH here holds only the **3** "top" Honors, A,K,Q,x, but close enough!

The Hand also involves an unusual "fit", a **4-3** "fit", when the contract is set at the **4** level in a Major when Partners do not together hold **8+** Trumps. This is a so-called "**Moyesian Fit**":

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/moyesian.pdf>

**BBO Bridge Master Level 4 Lesson A-06**

Dealer: **EAST**

NORTH (11)

**S:** 5 3 2  
**H:** A 6  
**D:** 4  
**C:** A Q J T 9 8 7

WEST (4)

**S:** J T 9 8  
**H:** 8 7 4  
**D:** Q J T 9 8  
**C:** 5

EAST (13)

**S:** 7 6  
**H:** K Q J T 9  
**D:** A K 7 6  
**C:** 6 4

SOUTH (12)

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

**Bidding**

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
<b>1H</b>	<b>1S</b>	<b>2H</b>	<b>3C</b>
PASS	<b>4C</b>	PASS	<b>4S</b>
PASS	PASS	PASS	

On Trick **#1** WEST leads the Heart 4, the Suit initially bid by EAST as Dealer. Declarer SOUTH "wins" with the NORTH Dummy Heart Ace.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. After SOUTH "wins" Trick **#1** with the NORTH Dummy Heart Ace what should Declarer SOUTH lead from the Dummy on Trick **#2**?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0251\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0251_a1.pdf)