

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0252:
"Playing a 3NT Contract as Declarer: *Correctly*
and *Fully* Interpreting LHO's Initial Lead"**

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-4 **Lesson A-09**. 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 4 Lesson A-09

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (9)

S: 4 2
H: 5 4
D: K 6 5 4
C: A Q 8 7 6

WEST (6)

S: J 8 6 5
H: A T 9 8
D: 8
C: J 9 5 3

EAST (9)

S: K T 9 7
H: Q J 7 6
D: Q J T 9 7
C: --

SOUTH (16)

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

Bidding

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

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Spade 5.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. After SOUTH "wins" Trick #1 with the Spade Ace to "cover" EAST's Spade King. What does WEST's lead tell the Declarer about WEST's Club holdings?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0252_a1.pdf