

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0259:
"Playing a 3NT Contract as Declarer: Sometimes
'Unblocking' Is to Make More Tricks, Other Times
'Unblocking' Is for 'Transportation'"**

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 B-03**. 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 B-03

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (4)

S: T 9 8

H: K 3 2

D: T 9 8 7

C: J T 9

WEST (9)

S: 4 2

H: 9 8 7

D: A K 5

C: Q 7 6 5 3

EAST (7)

S: K 7 6 5

H: 6 5 4

D: 6 4 3 2

C: A 8

SOUTH (20)

S: A Q J 3

H: A Q J T

D: Q J

C: K 4 2

Bidding

SOUTH

2NT

PASS

WEST

PASS

PASS

NORTH

3NT

EAST

PASS

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Club 5, the 4th from the "top" of a "long" Club holding so that EAST can invoke the "Rule of 11"², as the "bottom of something".

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. Where should Declarer SOUTH "place" the "missing" Spade King?
3. What card should Declarer SOUTH play from his own "closed" (hidden) Hand on Trick #1?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0259_a1.pdf

² Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see: "Some of the 40 or So Bridge Bidding/Play 'Rules'":
<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/rules.pdf>