

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0268:  
"Avoiding the 'Danger Player' When You Are  
Playing a Suit Contract as Declarer"**

**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. Here we use the *free* "**BBO Bridge Master**" Level-4 **Lesson B-18** which gives you the opportunity to see and *repeatedly practice* playing a given bridge Board.

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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 B-18**

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (16)

**S:** A 4 2  
**H:** J 4 2  
**D:** A K J T 9  
**C:** K 3

WEST (2)

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

EAST (14)

**S:** K 6  
**H:** A T 7 5  
**D:** 7 5 4  
**C:** A Q J T

SOUTH (8)

**S:** Q J T 9 8 7  
**H:** K 3  
**D:** Q 3 2  
**C:** 4 2

**Bidding**

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<b>2S*</b>	PASS	<b>4S**</b>	PASS
PASS	PASS		

\*N/S by Partnership Agreement are playing a 2-level pre-empt bid as requiring (1) **6** cards and (2) either (a) **2** of the 3 "top" Honors or (b) **3** of the 5 "top" Honors. This bid "limits" the bidder's Hand and the bidder will not bid again unless Partner asks him a question.

\*\*NORTH's bid is not based on the "**Rule of 17**" which NORTH knows must be used with caution:

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/Rule 17.pdf>

Instead, NORTH as Responder bids **4S** because he knows that N/S together hold  $6 + 3 = 9$  Trump Spades and solid Diamonds and a "protected" Club King.

WEST leads his Heart 6 as the "bottom of something" in his "strongest" Suit. This reduces Declarer SOUTH's Heart "losers" to **1**.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy has been exposed what danger should Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What Heart card should Declarer SOUTH play from the NORTH Dummy on Trick **#1**?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0268 q.pdf>