

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0328:  
"As Declarer Playing a 4H Contract  
After Losing 3 Tricks 'Off the Top' Which of  
Your 2 Suits 'Missing' Kings  
Should You Finesse First?"**

**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-1 **Lesson A-18** which gives you the opportunity to see and *repeatedly practice* playing a given bridge Board. Esther may have altered some of the cards in the Hands.

© Copyright, Bruce Thompson, 2026. All rights reserved.

---

<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 1 Lesson A-18**

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (12)

**S:** A Q J

**H:** 9 8 7

**D:** J T 9

**C:** A T 9 8

WEST (8)

**S:** 7 6 5 4

**H:** 5

**D:** K Q 5

**C:** K 6 5 4 3

EAST (7)

**S:** K T 9 8

**H:** 6 4 3 2

**D:** A 8 7 6

**C:** 7

SOUTH (13)

**S:** 3 2

**H:** A K Q J T

**D:** 4 3 2

**C:** Q J 2

**Bidding**

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

\*N/S are playing the "2 Over 1"<sup>2</sup> convention and NORTH's 2C bid as Responder and says "Partner, I hold (1) at least ~13 HCPs and (2) 4 (possibly 3) Clubs." NORTH's 2C bid does not deny Hearts.

WEST leads the Diamond King as the "top" of his "touching" Diamond Honors. E/W "win" Diamond Tricks #1, #2, and #3. After "winning" Trick #3 with his Diamond Ace on Trick #4 EAST leads a Trump Heart because doing so cannot hurt and merely surrenders an inevitable Trump Heart "winner" to N/S.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed how many potential additional "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What should Declarer SOUTH do after "winning" Tricks #4 in his own "closed" (hidden) Hand?
3. What "Line of Play" should Declarer SOUTH initially plan in order to still try to "make" his 4H contract?

---

<sup>2</sup> Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see "Esther Convention Lesson #1: The '2 Over 1' Bridge Convention": [https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/2 over 1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/2%20over%201.pdf)

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0328\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0328_a1.pdf)