

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0352:  
"Using Probabilities As Bridge Declarer in a  
3NT Contract to Decide How to  
'Win' Needed Tricks"**

**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-2 **Lesson B-03** 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.

As noted in "BBO Bridge Master" Level-2 **Lesson B-03**:

**"Bridge players should have a *good* working knowledge of probabilities of suit breaks and honour [sic] distributions. Many bridge books contain tables of *important* bridge odds. Memorizing a *handful* of numbers can help solve most problems like this one."** [italics added]

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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 2 Lesson B-03**

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (8)

**S:** 5 4 2  
**H:** A J T  
**D:** K 7 6 4  
**C:** 4 3 2

WEST (5)

**S:** Q T 8 6  
**H:** K 9 8 7  
**D:** T  
**C:** T 9 8 6

EAST (9)

**S:** K J 9 7  
**H:** Q 6 4  
**D:** Q J 9 8  
**C:** 7 5

SOUTH (18)

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

**Bidding**

| SOUTH       | WEST | NORTH      | EAST |
|-------------|------|------------|------|
| 1 <b>D</b>  | PASS | 2 <b>D</b> | PASS |
| 3 <b>C</b>  | PASS | 3 <b>H</b> | PASS |
| 3 <b>NT</b> | PASS | PASS       | PASS |

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Spade 6 as the 4<sup>th</sup> card from his "longest and strongest" "broken" Suit.

1. Based on WEST's lead on Trick #1 how many Spades does WEST likely hold?
2. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?
3. Where can Declarer SOUTH see a potential needed 9<sup>th</sup> Trick?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0352\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0352_a1.pdf)