

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0359:  
'Unblocking' and 'Finessing' Decisions That a  
Skilled Declarer  
in a Suit Contract *Must Consider*"**

**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 D-25** 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.

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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 D-25**

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (4)

**S:** K J 8

**H:** 5 3 2

**D:** 6 5 4 2

**C:** 6 4 3

WEST (7)

**S:** Q T 4 2

**H:** T 8 4

**D:** J

**C:** K J 9 7 5

EAST (6)

**S:** 7 6 5 3

**H:** 9

**D:** T 9 8 7

**C:** A Q T 8

SOUTH (23)

**S:** A 9

**H:** A K Q J 7 6

**D:** A K Q 3

**C:** 2

**Bidding**

SOUTH

2**C**

2**H**

3**H**

5**C\***

PASS

WEST

PASS

PASS

PASS

PASS

PASS

NORTH

5**D**

2**H**

4**NT**

6**H**

EAST

PASS

PASS

PASS

PASS

\*N/S are playing the "Roman Key Card 1430"<sup>2</sup> convention in which SOUTH's response to NORTH's query says, "Partner, from among the 4 Aces and the Trump King 'key' cards I hold either 1 or 4 'key' cards."

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Spade 2 as 4<sup>th</sup> from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" Suit containing no "touching" Honors.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what N/S "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. Which Spade card from the NORTH Dummy should Declarer SOUTH play on Trick #1?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0359\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0359_a1.pdf)

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<sup>2</sup> Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see "Esther Bridge Conventions Lesson #3":  
[https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/RKC\\_1430.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/RKC_1430.pdf)