

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0366:
"As Declarer Resolving a 'Blockage' and
Making Optimal 'Line of Play' Choices"**

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. Here we use the *free* "**BBO Bridge Master**" Level-3 **Lesson A-32** 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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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 3 Lesson A-32

Dealer: **NORTH**

NORTH (21)

S: 4 2
H: A K
D: A K Q 6 4
C: A J T 9

WEST (7)

S: A K 9 8 7
H: 5 4 3
D: T 9 8
C: 6 4

EAST (5)

S: J T 6 5 3
H: 2
D: J 7
C: K 8 7 5 3

SOUTH (7)

S: Q
H: Q J T 9 8 7 6
D: 5 3 2
C: Q 2

Bidding

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 D	PASS	1 H	PASS
3 C	PASS	3 H	PASS
5 H*	PASS	6 H	PASS
PASS	PASS		

*NORTH's 5**H** bid is "invitational" to slam.

On Trick #1 WEST leads his Spade ace thus "promising" the Spade King and asking Partner EAST to "signal" whether EAST can "win" a 3rd Spade Trick either (1) with the Spade Queen or (2) by ruffing. E/W "win" Trick #1 and WEST leads his Spade King on Trick #2 and Declarer SOUTH ruffs.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What opportunities do the NORTH Dummy's Diamonds provide to the Declarer?
3. N/S "lost" Trick #1 and must "win" all the remaining Tricks in order to "make" his 6**H** contract. What should Declarer SOUTH do on Trick #3 and thereafter?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0366_a1.pdf