

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0367:**  
**"As Declarer *Correctly* Interpreting the Lead and  
Thereby Seeing an *Unobvious* but *Essential*  
Necessity to 'Unblock' a Suit"**

**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-3 **Lesson B-04** 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 3 Lesson B-04**

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (8)

**S:** A 2  
**H:** 5 4 3 2  
**D:** A 9 8  
**C:** 6 5 4 3

WEST (4)

**S:** K 9 8 7  
**H:** 7  
**D:** J T 5 2  
**C:** T 9 8 7

EAST (7)

**S:** Q J T 6 5 3  
**H:** 8 6  
**D:** K 7 6 4  
**C:** J

SOUTH (21)

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

**Bidding**

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2 <b>C</b>	PASS	2 <b>D</b>	PASS
2 <b>H</b>	PASS	3 <b>H</b>	PASS
4 <b>C</b>	PASS	6 <b>H</b>	PASS
PASS	PASS		

On Trick **#1** WEST leads his Diamond Jack.

1. How should Declarer SOUTH interpret WEST's lead of his Diamond Jack?
2. What are all the possible E/W Club "splits" and what are their various probabilities? What E/W Club "splits" will be problematic for Declarer SOUTH?
3. On Trick **#1** what Diamond card should Declarer SOUTH play from the NORTH Dummy? What Diamond should Declarer SOUTH expect EAST to the play on Trick **#1**? On Trick **#1** what Diamond card should Declarer SOUTH play from his own "closed" (hidden) Hand?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0367\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0367_a1.pdf)