

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0388:  
"As Declarer Correctly Interpreting the Lead  
And Severing Opponents' 'Communication' by  
'Ducking' on a Trick That You Could 'Win'  
Either Now or Later"**

**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-4 **Lesson B-14** 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 4 Lesson B-14**

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (0)

**S:** T  
**H:** 5 4 3 2  
**D:** 6 5 4 2  
**C:** 6 4 3 2

WEST (10)

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

EAST (7)

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

SOUTH (23)

**S:** A K J 5 4 4 3  
**H:** A K Q  
**D:** A 3  
**C:** Q

**Bidding**

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2 <b>C</b>	PASS	2 <b>D</b>	PASS
2 <b>S</b>	PASS	2 <b>NT</b>	PASS
4 <b>S</b>	PASS	PASS	PASS

On Trick #1 WEST leads his Club Ace as the "top" of a "touching" card sequence and asking Partner EAST to signal whether he can "win" the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of Clubs either (1) with the Queen or (2) by ruffing. After "winning" Trick #1 with Declarer SOUTH discarding the Club Queen WEST assumes that SOUTH can now ruff Clubs and so WEST on Trick #2 WEST "switches" to Diamonds by leading his Diamond Jack. BOTH the Dummy and EAST "follow" "low.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. On Trick #2 Declarer SOUTH sees that together N/S hold 4 + 2 = 6 Diamonds. From his own Hand should Declarer SOUTH "cover" or "duck" on Trick #2?
3. What bridge "play" can Declarer SOUTH execute in order to protect against "losing" a Spade Trick to E/W?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0388\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0388_a1.pdf)