

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0424:
"Correct Bidding and Play on a
Challenging 3NT Board"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/index.html>

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About Richard Pavlicek

Richard Pavlicek (1945-) has won **11** North American Bridge Championships, including a record-setting **3** straight wins in the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, 1982-84, and again in 1990. He won the 1973 inaugural Grand National Teams tournament and repeated a win there in 1997. He has written or co-authored several bridge books, including with co-author William S. Root their 1981 book, Modern Bridge Conventions. From 1984 until 1990 Pavlicek was the Bridge Columnist for the Fort Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel. Esther particularly likes the Bridge Simulation Studies presented on his bridge website:

<https://www.rpbridge.net/rpsi.htm>

and his re-posts of his newspaper bridge columns:

<https://www.rpbridge.net/rpco.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 9/27/81 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Smoke Screen Wins Bridge Hand".

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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.

Dealer: **NORTH**

Vul: **NONE**

NORTH (14)

S: A K 6 5 4

H: 9 3

D: A Q J 6 5

C: 3

WEST (10)

S: Q 9 2

H: A Q 8

D: T 9 8 7

C: Q 9 2

EAST (8)

S: J T 7 3

H: K 9 5 4

D: 2

C: A 8 7 6

SOUTH (8)

S: 8

H: J 7 6 2

D: K 4 3

C: K J T 5 4

Bidding

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 S	PASS	1 NT *	PASS
2 D	PASS	2 NT	PASS
3 NT	PASS	PASS	PASS

*N/S are playing the "2 Over 1 Convention"² in which NORTH's 1**NT** bid (1) shows 6-11 HCPs and (2) denies 3+ Spades. In most Partnership Agreements this bid is "forcing for 1 Round" for NORTH to either rebid Spades to "show" 6 Spade cards or to bid another Suit or **NT**.

On Trick #1 WEST naturally leads his Diamond Ten as the "top" of a "touching" card sequence in his "longest" Suit. Fortunately for SOUTH, WEST has no way to know that leading a Heart will "doom" the N/S 3**NT** contract. Declarer SOUTH "wins" Trick #1 with the NORTH Dummy's Diamond Jack.

1. After the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "certain" "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What bridge strategy should Declarer SOUTH use as he executes his initial "Line of Play"?

² Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see "Esther Bridge Convention #1: The '2 Over 1' Bridge Convention": https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/2_over_1.pdf

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0424_a1.pdf