

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0425:
"Does the '5 Level (Really)
Belong to the Opponents'?"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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<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 9/2/84 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "World's Smallest Finesse".

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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: **E/W**

NORTH (13)

S: A T 6 3

H: 8 4

D: K 9 2

C: A Q 6 4

WEST (8)

S: 5 4 2

H: Q J T 6

D: J 5

C: K J 5 3

EAST (11)

S: --

H: A K 9 7 3 2

D: A T 8 7 3

C: 8 7

SOUTH (8)

S: K Q J 9 8 7

H: 5

D: Q 6 4

C: T 9 2

Bidding

NORTH

EAST

SOUTH

WEST

1**C**

1**H**

1**S**

2**H**

2**S**

4**H**

4**S**

PASS

PASS

5**H**

5**S**

PASS

PASS

PASS

On Trick #1 WEST naturally leads his Queen of Partner EAST's bid Hearts and "wins". On Trick #2 WEST continues Hearts and Declarer SOUTH ruffs.

1. Was SOUTH's decision to set the final contract at 5**S** improvident?
2. What "Line of Play" should Declarer SOUTH initially follow?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0425 a1.pdf>