

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0429:
"When Playing Suit Contracts
Very 'Distributional' Hands Provide Creative
Opportunities But Also Serious Dangers"**

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 2/16/86 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "The Lowly Deuce". This is a "Real Deal" Board and Declarer SOUTH on this Board was Helen Shanbaum.

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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: **BOTH**

NORTH (14)

S: K 9 8 5 4

H: A T

D: A K T 7 6

C: 4

WEST (7)

S: 2

H: Q 9 8 7 4

D: 8 3

C: K Q T 9 8

EAST (11)

S: Q T 6

H: K J 6 5

D: 2

C: A J 7 6 5

SOUTH (8)

S: A J 7 3

H: 3 2

D: Q J 9 5 4

C: 3 2

Bidding

NORTH

1**D***

3**S**

PASS

EAST

PASS

PASS

PASS

SOUTH

1**S**

4**S**

WEST

PASS

PASS

*"This was NORTH's actual bid in this "Real Deal". Most players would instead have bid the **5**-card Major.

On Trick **#1** WEST naturally leads his Club King thus "promising" the "touching" Honor in a "long" Suit and "wins". WEST seeing that the NORTH Dummy is now void in Clubs on Trick **#2** "shifted" to a Heart and the NORTH Dummy's Heart Ace "wins".

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What is the most likely E/W Trump Spade "split"? What is the most likely E/W Diamond "split"?
3. After Declarer SOUTH "wins" Trick **#2** what "Line of Play" should Declarer SOUTH initially follow?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0429_a1.pdf