

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0437:
**"'Second Hand Low' Is Usually Good Advice on
Defense But Also for Bridge Declarers!"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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

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

To return to the "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quizzes", CLICK:

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In "Esther Bridge Dialogue Lesson #69" Esther has previously discussed "Playing 'Second Hand Low', and Exceptions Thereto, and Exceptions to the Exceptions Thereto":

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/SecHandLow.pdf>

The "Second Hand Low" bridge admonition is often used with respect to bridge play by the Defenders, but here Esther explores the "Second Hand Low" admonitions with respect to bridge play by the Declarer.

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/rpc.htm>

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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.

The present “Esther Bridge ‘Pop’ Quiz” is based on the 6/9/85 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, “Second Hand Low’ Is Good Advice”. This is a “Real Deal” Board played in a local bridge Club during the 1980’s.

Dealer: **SOUTH**

Vul: **BOTH**

NORTH (8)

S: K 3

H: Q 8 6 3

D: A K 6

C: J T 9 2

WEST (8)

S: T 4 2

H: K T 4

D: Q T 8

C: K 8 4 3

EAST (12)

S: 5

H: A J 5

D: J 9 5 2

C: A Q 7 6 5

SOUTH (7)

S: A Q J 9 8 7 6

H: 9 7 2

D: 7 4 3

C: --

Bidding

SOUTH

3S

PASS

WEST

PASS

PASS

NORTH

4S

EAST

PASS

On Trick #1 WEST led the Club 3 as 4th from the “top” of his “longest and strongest” Suit. EAST uses the “Rule of 11”² to determine that Declarer SOUTH is already void in Clubs, given that $11 - 3 = 8$, the Dummy holds 3 cards higher than the Club 3, so $8 - 3 = 5$, and EAST holds 5 cards higher than the Club 3, and $3 - 3 = 0$!

1. What Club card should Declarer SOUTH play from the NORTH Dummy on Trick #1?

To see Esther’s suggested answers, CLICK:

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0437_a1.pdf

² Within the “Esther Bridge Lessons” see “Some of the 40 or So Bridge Bidding/Play ‘Rules’”:

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/rules.pdf>