

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0451:
"As a Declarer Can You Capitalize on Opponents'
Overreliance on the Bridge Admonition,
***'Aces Are Meant to Kill Kings'*,**
and Run a Bridge *'Deception Play'*?"

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:

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

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>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 8/5/84 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Aces Are Meant to Take Kings".

© Copyright, Bruce Thompson, 2026. All rights reserved.

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: **SOUTH**

Vul: **BOTH**

NORTH (10)

S: A 6

H: Q J T 6

D: Q 9 4

C: J 7 4 3

WEST (10)

S: Q T 8 4 3

H: 8 2

D: A 8 3

C: A T 2

EAST (4)

S: J 9 5 2

H: 5 4 3

D: 7 6 5

C: K 9 8

SOUTH (16)

S: K 7

H: A K 9 7

D: K J T 2

C: Q 6 5

Bidding

SOUTH

1**NT**

2**H**

PASS

WEST

PASS

PASS

PASS

NORTH

2**C***

4**H**

EAST

PASS

PASS

*This is the "**Stayman Convention**", a convention not actually created by Sam Stayman:

https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/br_hist.pdf

WEST has learned to not lead "away" from Aces in a Suit contract and so leads **4th** from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" Suit and so leads his Spade 4.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What "Line of Play" should Declarer initially follow?

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

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0451_a1.pdf