

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0454:

**"As a Declarer Playing a Game Suit Contract and
Seeing That You Will 'Make' 12 Tricks
Can You See a Way to Instead 'Win' 13 Tricks?:
As Declarer Always Give Your Opponents
Every Opportunity to Make Mistakes!"**

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/rpc.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 3/20/88 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Give Opponents a Chance to Err". This "Real Deal" Board was played in a 1988 Pompano Beach Bridge Club duplicate competition.

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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: **SOUTH**

Vul: **N/S**

NORTH (14)

S: K 6

H: K Q J T 4

D: Q 8

C: K 7 6 3

WEST (9)

S: J 8 4 3

H: 5

D: A J 7 6

C: Q J 8 4

EAST (3)

S: T 9 7

H: 8 2

D: K T 9 5 2

C: T 9 2

SOUTH (10)

S: A Q 5 2

H: A 9 7 6 3

D: 4 3

C: A 5

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 H	PASS	3 NT *	PASS
4 C **	PASS	4 H	PASS
PASS	PASS		

*N/S are playing a "**Splinter Bid**"² Convention in which a "jump" by Responder to 3**S**, 4**C**, or 4**D** "shows" (1) **4+** card "support", (2) **11-16** HCPs, and (3) a void or a "loser" singleton in the bid Suit. So, here a 3**NT** bid by Responder "shows" (1) **4+** card "support" and (2) no void or "loser" singleton.

**Gerber Convention asking for Aces.

On Trick #1 WEST led the Spade 3 as **4th** from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" Major.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is "exposed" Declarer SOUTH sees that the N/S contract is a "laydown." According to Pavlicek, "in fact 12 tricks were now a cinch." What "Line of Play" should Declarer follow?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0454_a1.pdf

² Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see "Splinter Bids":
<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/splinter.pdf>