

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0455:
"As a Declarer Playing a Game Suit Contract
Knowing *When* and *From Where* to Ruff"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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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 7/10/88 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Premature Ruff Brings Demise". This "Real Deal" Board was played in a 1988 duplicate bridge tournament.

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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 (12)

S: 7 6

H: A Q 4 3

D: A 9 7 6 5 3

C: Q

WEST (6)

S: 9 3 2

H: J T 8 7

D: T 2

C: A J 9 7

EAST (10)

S: K J T 8 5

H: --

D: Q J 8 4

C: K 5 4 3

SOUTH (12)

S: A Q 4

H: K 9 6 5 2

D: K

C: T 8 6 2

Bidding

NORTH

1**D**

3**H**

PASS

EAST

1**S**

PASS

PASS

SOUTH

2**H**

4**H**

WEST

PASS

PASS

On Trick #1 WEST led the Spade 2 as the "bottom of nothing" in Partner EAST's bid Suit.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is "exposed" what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What are all the ruffing opportunities that Declarer SOUTH can see?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0455_a1.pdf