

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0459:
"As a Declarer Playing a 4S Contract
Can You See Your *Only* 'Line of Play' With Which
You Can 'Make' Your Contract?"

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/rpcr.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 7/7/85 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Trump Sacrifice Keeps Control". This "Real Deal" Board was played in a 1980s local Florida Swiss Teams event.

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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: **E/W**

NORTH (7)

S: Q J T 4

H: K J 8 6

D: 7

C: 6 5 4 2

WEST (9)

S: 9 7 5

H: A T 7 4

D: A T 3

C: J T 8

EAST (11)

S: 8 6

H: Q 9 5 3 2

D: K J

C: K Q 9 7

SOUTH (13)

S: A K 3 2

H: --

D: Q 9 8 6 5 4 2

C: A 3

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 D	PASS	1 H*	PASS
1 S	PASS	2 S	PASS
4 S	PASS	PASS	PASS

*NORTH bids 1**H** in keeping with conventional practice even though he also holds 4 Spades and his Spades have better Suit Quality because they include 3 rather than 2 Honors, but doing so allows SOUTH to then "show" 4 Spades at the 1 level if indeed SOUTH is 2-Suited in the Majors.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is "exposed" what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What difficulty will Declarer SOUTH confront if he concedes a Diamond Trick to E/W and then starts cross-ruffing Diamonds in the NORTH Dummy and Hearts in his own "closed" (hidden) Hand?
3. What "Line of Play" should Declarer initially follow?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0459_a1.pdf