

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0464:
"When Playing Bridge as a Defender
Before You Ruff Ask Yourself,
(1) What Will I Lead If My Ruff Succeeds, and
(2) Would It Be Better If I Delay My 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/rpcr.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 2/1/87 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Anxiety to Ruff Can Be Costly". This "Real Deal" Board was played in a December, 1986 North American Championship side event in Atlanta.

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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: **WEST**

Vul: **BOTH**

NORTH (8)

S: J 7 2

H: 8 4

D: K 8 5

C: A T 7 6 3

WEST (9)

S: Q 3

H: Q T 3

D: J T 7

C: K J 9 8 5

EAST (9)

S: 6 4

H: K 9 7 2

D: A Q 9 6 4 2

C: 4

SOUTH (14)

S: A K T 9 8 5

H: A J 6 5

D: 3

C: Q 2

Bidding

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	PASS	2 D	2 S
3 D	3 S	PASS	4 S
PASS	PASS	PASS	

On Trick **#1** WEST led the Diamond Jack thus "promising" the "touching" Diamond Honor. Declarer SOUTH "ducked" in the NORTH Dummy and WEST's Diamond Jack "won" Trick **#1**. On Trick **#2** WEST led his "promised" Diamond Ten, SOUTH "ducked" again in the NORTH Dummy, EAST played "low", and Declarer SOUTH ruffed from his own Hand.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is "exposed" what "losers" should Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What "Line of Play" should EAST and WEST expect Declarer SOUTH to play? How can East and WEST counteract this "Line of Play"?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0464_a1.pdf