

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0465:
"As Declarer Playing a 3NT Contract
How Can You Overcome a 'Blocked' 'Long' Suit?"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:

<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/rpco.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 12/2/84 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Overcoming a Blocked Suit". This "Real Deal" was played in a side event at the Fall 1984 North American Bridge Championships in San Diego.

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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: **NONE**

NORTH (7)

S: 4

H: 8 2

D: A K 7 6 5 3 2

C: 8 6 4

WEST (9)

S: K 7 2

H: Q T 5 4

D: J

C: Q J 7 5 2

EAST (7)

S: J T 6 5 3

H: J 9 6

D: Q 4

C: K 9 3

SOUTH (17)

S: A Q 9 8

H: A K 7 3

D: T 9 8

C: A T

Bidding

NORTH

1**D**

PASS

EAST

PASS

PASS

SOUTH

3**NT**

WEST

PASS

WEST leads the Club 5 as **4th** from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" Suit so that Partner EAST (and Declarer SOUTH) can invoke the "**Rule of 11**"² to know exactly how many Clubs higher than the Club 5 SOUTH (or EAST) initially held. EAST played "**3rd** Hand high" with the Club King, and SOUTH "won" with his Club Ace.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is "exposed" what "winners" should Declarer SOUTH see? But what problem can Declarer SOUTH also see?
2. What can Declarer SOUTH do to resolve the problem he sees?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0465_a1.pdf

² Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see "Some of the 40 or So Bridge Bidding/Play 'Rules'":
<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/rules.pdf>