

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0466:
"As Declarer Playing a 4S Contract
Can You 'Correctly' Interpret Your LHO's Lead to
Help You Succeed in a
Very Challenging Contract?"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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

<https://esther-bridge.com/index.html>

To return to the "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quizzes", CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz.html>

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 6/22/86 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Good Card Reading". This "Real Deal" was played by Marie Levee sitting SOUTH as Declarer and Barbara Brier sitting NORTH in the June, 1986 Hollywood, FL Women's Pairs in the Hollywood, FL Sunshine State Senior Pairs 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: **EAST**

Vul: **BOTH**

NORTH (12)

S: K T 4

H: A K J 7

D: J 5 2

C: 6 5 3

WEST (5)

S: 9 5

H: T 6 2

D: Q 7 6

C: Q J 9 8 7

EAST (10)

S: J 8 7

H: Q 5 4 3

D: A K T 4

C: 4 2

SOUTH (13)

S: A Q 6 3 2

H: 9 8

D: 9 8 3

C: A K T

Bidding

EAST

SOUTH

WEST

NORTH

PASS

1**S**

PASS

1**NT***

PASS

2**C****

PASS

3**S*****

PASS

4**S**

PASS

PASS

PASS

*N/S are playing the "2 Over 1 Convention"² and NORTH's 1**NT** bid (1) "shows" 6-11 HCPs and (2) is "forcing" for 1 Round. Some players would have instead bid 3**S** as "invitational" to Game.

SOUTH's 2C** bid (1) denies 6 Spades and (2) "shows" Club strength.

***NORTH's 3**S** bid "shows" 3 Spades and is "invitational" to Game.

WEST did not lead his Club Queen as the "top" of "touching" Honors in a "long" Suit due to SOUTH's 2nd bid of 2**C**. Instead, WEST led the Heart 6, a lead from an unbid Major.

1. On Trick #1 should Declarer SOUTH finesse by playing the NORTH Dummy Heart Jack? What does WEST's lead of the Heart 6 "show"?
2. Once the NORTH Dummy is "exposed" what "losers" should Declarer SOUTH see?

² Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see "Esther Bridge Convention Lesson #1: "2 Over 1' Conventions Responses to Partner's Opening 1-Level Suit Bid":

https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/2_over_1.pdf

3. *What "Line of Play" should Declarer SOUTH follow?*

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0466_a1.pdf