

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0476:**  
**"As a Declarer Seeing 3 Opportunities for**  
**'Unmarked Finesses' Do You Know How to Decide**  
**Which Finesse Is Best and How to Decide the**  
**Order in Which to Take These Finesses?"**

**Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen<sup>1</sup>**

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/rpc.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 11/4/84 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "A Kingdom for a Finesse". This "Real Deal" was played in a 1980s local duplicate bridge Pairs competition.

© Copyright, Bruce Thompson, 2026. All rights reserved.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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](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: **NONE**

NORTH (13)

**S:** Q 8 5 2

**H:** A J 9

**D:** A Q 7

**C:** 8 6 4

WEST (6)

**S:** K 6

**H:** K 6 5 3

**D:** T 8 5 2

**C:** 9 5 3

EAST (4)

**S:** 4 3

**H:** 8 7 4 2

**D:** K J 9 3

**C:** T 7 2

SOUTH (17)

**S:** A J T 9 7

**H:** Q T

**D:** 6 4

**C:** A K Q J

### Bidding

| EAST | SOUTH         | WEST | NORTH      |
|------|---------------|------|------------|
| PASS | 1 <b>S</b>    | PASS | 3 <b>S</b> |
| PASS | 4 <b>NT</b> * | PASS | 5 <b>H</b> |
| PASS | 6 <b>S</b>    | PASS | PASS       |
| PASS |               |      |            |

\*Esther sitting SOUTH instead rather than bidding 4**NT** "asking for Aces" would have cuebid 4**C** to "show" the Club Ace.

WEST leads his Diamond 2 as 4<sup>th</sup> from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" Suit so that Partner EAST (and Declarer SOUTH) can use the "**Rule of 11**"<sup>2</sup> to determine exactly how many Diamonds higher than the Diamond 2 Declarer SOUTH (or EAST) holds.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" should Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What potential "**unmarked finesses**" should Declarer SOUTH see? When, if ever, should these finesses be taken by SOUTH?
3. Assuming that declarer SOUTH decides to finesse which "**unmarked finesse**" is best for SOUTH to try?

---

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

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0476\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0476_a1.pdf)