

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0478:
"As Declarer When You Can Execute an 'Endplay'
Which Is Better: The 'Endplay'
or an 'Unmarked Finesse'?"

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/rpcr.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 6/10/84 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Endplay Avoids Losing Finesse". The bridge Board used in this article is a "Real Deal" in a 1980s Pairs Competition played at the Pampano Beach Bridge Club. Declarer SOUTH on this "Real Deal" bridge Board was Joe Rogers of Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

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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: **NONE**

NORTH (8)

S: J T 5 4 3

H: J 7

D: K Q 8 6 5

C: 3

WEST (6)

S: K 9 8 6

H: T 8 6 3

D: 3 2

C: K 9 3

EAST (9)

S: Q 2

H: A Q 2

D: T 9 4

C: J T 8 6 4

SOUTH (17)

S: A 7

H: K 9 5 4

D: A 7 3

C: A Q 7 5

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 NT	PASS	2 H	PASS
2 S	PASS	3 D	PASS
3 NT	PASS	PASS	PASS

WEST leads his Heart 3 as **4th** from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" Suit so that Partner EAST (and Declarer SOUTH) can use the "**Rule of 11**"² to determine exactly how many Hearts higher than the Heart 3 Declarer SOUTH (or EAST) holds.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "winners" should Declarer SOUTH see?
2. Declarer SOUTH sees only **1** possible finesse that he can execute: leading a NORTH Dummy Club toward his own Club A,Q in the hopes that EAST holds the Club King. What is the probability of success on this finesse?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0478_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>