

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0479:
"As Declarer What to Do Whenever You Confront an
Opponent's Freak 'Trump Stack' "

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 10/2/88 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Trump Stack Ground to Mincemeat". The bridge Board used in this article is a "Real Deal" in the September, 1988 Royal Viking 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: **WEST**

Vul: **BOTH**

NORTH (17)

S: 9 2

H: A

D: A 9 8 7

C: A K Q T 9 4

WEST (10)

S: A K Q

H: 2

D: T 6 5 4 3

C: J 6 5 3

EAST (7)

S: J 8 7 6 3

H: K Q J 8 6 5 3

D: --

C: 2

SOUTH (5)

S: T 5 4

H: T 9 7 4

D: K Q J 2

C: 8 7

Bidding

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	1 C	4 H*	PASS
PASS	4 NT**	PASS	5 D
DBL	PASS	PASS	PASS

***EAST bids 4H** because his Hearts have a Ron Klinger "**Suit Quality Test ('SQT') Score**"² of (1) 7 cards plus (2) 3 Honors or $7 + 3 = 10$. A Suit with an "**SQT Score**" of 10 will generally support a Suit contract set no higher than the $10 - 6 = 4$ level.

****WEST's 4NT** bid is an "**Unusual NT**" bid that "shows" a Hand that is 2 Suited in the Minors:

https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/unus_2NT.pdf

WEST leads his Spade King because E/W are playing M/U.D. (Middle, Up, Down) and this lead "shows" either the Spade Queen or the Spade A,K,Q. If WEST on the 2nd Trick leads the Ace then WEST has also "shown" the Spade Queen.

- A. WEST "wins" Tricks #1 and #2 with his Spade K,A. On Trick #3 when WEST leads his Spade Queen to force Declarer SOUTH to ruff in the NORTH Dummy that holds only 4 Trump Diamonds.

² Within the "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quizzes" see "Several Bidding Conundrums and a Centennial-Quiz Tribute to Ron Klinger and His 'Suit Quality Test ('SQT') Score'":

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0100_q.pdf

- B. On Trick #4 Declarer SOUTH leads the NORTH Dummy's Trump Diamond 8. EAST "shows out", Declarer SOUTH plays his Trump Diamond King "winner", and WEST follows "low".
1. *WEST is now known to have initially held 5 Trump Diamonds, a "Trump Stack", including the Diamond Ten. Declarer SOUTH knows that the probability of a 5-0 "split" is only 3.9%,³ but of course is somewhat expected given that the exposed Dummy holds 6 Clubs and EAST is known to hold 7 or 8 Hearts. How should Declarer SOUTH deal with this "Vicious Trump Stack"?*

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0479_a1.pdf

³ Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see "**A Comprehensive List of 8 Different Categories of Bridge Probabilities, and How These May Help Guide Your Bidding and Play**":
https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/8_probs.pdf