

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0487:
"As Declarer Playing a Suit Contract Do You Know
How to Cope With an Opponent Holding an
Unfavorable '*Trump Stack*'?"

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/rpcn.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 2/25/90 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Coping with a Bad Trump Break".

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

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: **E/W**

NORTH (7)

S: 8 6 5

H: 7 6 4

D: 7 6 5

C: A K 6 4

WEST (11)

S: A K Q 9 4

H: T 9 8 3

D: 8 4

C: Q 5

EAST (6)

S: J T 3 2

H: 5

D: K J T

C: J T 9 3 2

SOUTH (16)

S: 7

H: A K Q J 2

D: A Q 9 3 2

C: 8 7

Bidding

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
PASS	1 H	1 S	2 H
2 S	4 H	PASS	PASS
PASS			

WEST leads his Spade Ace thus "promising" the "touching" King and asking Partner EAST to "signal" whether he can "win" a **3rd** Round of Spades either (1) with the Spade Queen assuming the NORTH Dummy holds at least **3** Spades or (2) by ruffing. After WEST "wins" Trick **#1** WEST on Trick **#2** leads his Spade King and Declarer SOUTH ruffs.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" should Declarer SOUTH see?
2. On Trick **#3** Declarer SOUTH "cashes" his own Trump Heart Ace and both WEST and EAST "follow". On Trick **#4** Declarer SOUTH "cashes" his own Trump Heart King and WEST "follows" but EAST discards a "low" Spade. What "Line of Play" should Declarer SOUTH now follow?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0487_a1.pdf