

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0490:

"If You and Partner Are Not Playing This Bridge Convention Then You and Partner Are Going to Miss Many of the Rare Slam Bids That Your Partnership Could Otherwise Bid and Make"

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/rpc.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 3/11/90 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Most Valuable Slam-Bidding Tool".

© 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: **NORTH**

Vul: **N/S**

NORTH (15)

S: Q J 8 7

H: A K 7 6 5 3

D: A J

C: 3

WEST (11)

S: A 6 4 3

H: Q 9 2

D: 7 6 2

C: K Q 2

EAST (3)

S: 2

H: J T

D: Q T 9 5 3

C: T 7 5 4 2

SOUTH (11)

S: K T 9 5

H: 8 4

D: K 8 4

C: A J 8 6

Bidding

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 H	PASS	1 S	PASS
4 C*	PASS	4 NT**	PASS
5 H**	PASS	6 S	PASS
PASS	PASS		

*****"Partner, I hold (1) **4+** Spades and (2) either a Club singleton or void and if my Club holding is a singleton that singleton is not the Ace 'winner':

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/splinter.pdf>

******SOUTH likes holding the Club Ace when NORTH holds a Club 'loser' singleton or void and knows from NORTH's "splinter bid" that NORTH also holds at least **4** Spades including some Spade Honors.

*******"I hold **2** Aces."

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed Declarer SOUTH sees that N/S together hold only $15 + 11 = \mathbf{26}$ HCPs. Is a **6S** "small" slam "makeable" with so few HCPs?
2. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?

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

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0490_a1.pdf