

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0492:**  
**"Defenders Numerous 'Signals' to Each Other Lead  
to a *Massive* Declarer 'Train Wreck' on a  
*Massively* Improvident 'Sacrifice' Bid!"**

**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/rpco.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 3/4/90 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Declarer's Trump Suit Is Riddled". This "Real Deal" was played in a Swiss Teams Qualifying Tournament for a 1990s North American Open.

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<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: **NORTH**

Vul: **BOTH**

NORTH (7)

**S:** --

**H:** A J T 9 5 4

**D:** 6 5 3

**C:** Q 8 6 5

WEST (6)

**S:** 9 6 3 2

**H:** Q

**D:** A 9 8 4

**C:** T 4 3 2

EAST (20)

**S:** A 8

**H:** K 7 3 2

**D:** K Q T

**C:** A K J 9

SOUTH (7)

**S:** K Q J T 7 5 4

**H:** 8 6

**D:** J 7 2

**C:** 7

### Bidding

NORTH

2**H\***

PASS

EAST

3**NT**

PASS

SOUTH

4**S\*\***

PASS

WEST

**DBL**

\*Esther prefers to play by Partnership Agreement that a 2-level pre-empt bid "shows" (1) a "weak" Hand, and (2) 6 cards including either (a) 2 of the "top" 3 cards in the bid Suit or (b) 3 of the "top" 5 cards so as to more precisely "limit" the pre-empt bidders' Hand.

\*\*WEST's bid is a "sacrifice" bid. Given that SOUTH's Spades have a Ron Klinger "**Suit Quality Test ('SQT')** **Score**"<sup>2</sup> of (1) 7 cards and (2) 4 Honors (including the Spade Ten because SOUTH also holds at least 1 Honor higher than the Ten), or  $7 + 4 = 11$ . An "**SQT Score**" will generally support a Suit contract set no higher than "**SQT Score**" minus 6 or here  $11 - 6 = 5$ .

WEST knows that if E/W "make" a 3**NT** contract N/S will earn a Bridge Score of -600 but if N/S go down -2 **UNDOUBLED** N/S will earn a "higher" Bridge Score of only -200.

WEST leads the Heart Queen. Declarer SOUTH "wins" Trick #1 with the NORTH Dummy's Heart Ace.

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<sup>2</sup> Within the "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quizzes" see "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz #100": "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](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0100_q.pdf)

1. *Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?*
2. *What is the "key" to success for Defenders E/W?*

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

[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0492\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0492_a1.pdf)