

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0496:
"When a Defender Offers You the 'Gift' of a Free
'Ruff and Sluff' , Beware!"

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/rpcr.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 4/1/90 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Don't Accept a Gift Horse!". This Board was played during the Spring 1990 North American Bridge Championships in Ft. Worth.

© 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: **BOTH**

NORTH (15)

S: 5 2

H: A J 8 5 2

D: J 9 2

C: A K Q

WEST (7)

S: A K T 9 6 3

H: T 3

D: T 8 7 5 4

C: --

EAST (5)

S: J 8 7

H: Q 9 7 6

D: Q 6

C: T 9 8 2

SOUTH (13)

S: Q 4

H: K 4

D: A K 3

C: J 7 6 5 4 3

Bidding

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 H	PASS	2 C	2 S
3 C	PASS	3 D	PASS
5 C	PASS	PASS	PASS

On Tricks **#1** and **#2** WEST "cached" his Spade A,K and everyone "followed". The NORTH Dummy was now "showing" as void in Spades. On Trick **#3** WEST led a "low" Spade.

1. How should Declarer SOUTH interpret WEST's lead on Trick **#3**?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0496_a1.pdf