

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0502:
"When Playing Bridge as a Declarer
Playing for an 'Overtrick' If It Is Safe to
Do So Can Be Very Valuable at Matchpoints:
Enter the Declarer's 'Squeeze Play' "**

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/rpco.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 1/15/89 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Running Trumps Can Work Miracles". This "Real Deal" was played in the late 1980s in a local Florida ACBL bridge club.

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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: **NORTH**

Vul: **NONE**

NORTH (9)

S: A K 8 2

H: 9 5

D: T 8

C: Q 8 6 5 3

WEST (5)

S: 7 6 4

H: T 7 4

D: A 7 5 4 3

C: J T

EAST (10)

S: 9 5 3

H: 3 2

D: Q J 6

C: A K 9 7 4

SOUTH (16)

S: Q J T

H: A K Q J 8 6

D: K 9 2

C: 2

Bidding

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
PASS	PASS	1 H	PASS
1 S	2 C	3 H	PASS
4 H	PASS	PASS	PASS
PASS			

On Trick **#1** WEST leads the Club Jack as the "top" Club in Partner's EAST's bid Suit. Declarer SOUTH "ducked" in the NORTH Dummy and EAST seeing the Club Queen in the Dummy and himself holding the Club A,K "ducks" knowing that WEST's led Club Jack will hold as long as Declarer SOUTH holds at least **1** Club card. After WEST "wins" Trick **#1** on Trick **#2** WEST leads his Club Ten, SOUTH again "ducks" in the Dummy so EAST also "ducks", and Declarer SOUTH ruffs.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?

2. On Tricks **#3-#5** Declarer SOUTH "drew" all **5** of the E/W Trump Hearts. On Trick **#5** a Club was discarded from the NORTH Dummy and EAST also discarded a Club given that SOUTH could ruff Clubs again. On Tricks **#6-#9** Declarer SOUTH "cashed" **4** Spade Tricks. On Trick **#10** Declarer SOUTH led a "low" Dummy Diamond toward his own Diamond King for an attempted "**unmarked finesse**"² and WEST "won" with his Diamond Ace.

										NORTH (9)															
										S:		<u>A</u>	K	8	<u>2</u>										
												9	8	7	6										
										H:		9	5												
												4	3												
										D:		T	<u>8</u>												
												10													
										C:		Q	8	6	5	3									
												5			2	1									
WEST (5)										EAST (10)															
S:		7	6	4						S:		9	5	3											
		8	7	6								8	7	6											
H:		T	7	4						H:		3	2												
		5	4	3								4	3												
D:		A	7	5	4	3				D:		Q	J	6											
		10				9						10	9												
C:		J	T									C:		A	K	9	7	4							
		1	2											2	5			1							
										SOUTH (16)															
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To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0502_a1.pdf