

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0504:
"While Playing a 3NT Contract After a
'Competitive' Auction Which One of These
3 Declarers Would You Be?"

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 2/12/89 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Careful Play Solves Entry Problem".

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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: **EAST**

Vul: **NONE**

NORTH (9)

S: K J 6 5 3

H: A 8 4 2

D: 3

C: J 5 3

WEST (2)

S: Q 8 7

H: T 9 7

D: T 8 5 4

C: 9 7 2

EAST (13)

S: A T 9

H: J 7 5

D: Q J 9 7

C: K Q T

SOUTH (16)

S: 4 2

H: K Q 3

D: A K 6 2

C: A 8 6 4

Bidding

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 D	1 NT ¹	PASS	2 C ²
PASS	2 D ³	PASS	3 S ⁴
PASS	3 NT	PASS	PASS

¹"Partner, I hold **15-17** HCPs, a "flat" Hand, no void or singleton, and no more than **1** doubleton. I also hold at least **1** Diamond 'stopper'".

²This is the "Stayman" convention indeed **not** invented by Sam Stayman: https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/br_hist.pdf and asks Partner if he holds at least **1** 4-card Major. If Responder's distribution is 4-3-3-3 or 3-4-3-3, Responder has no shortness that can provide opportunities for trumping and with these distributions should never bid Stayman!:

https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/staym_2.pdf

³"Partner, I do not hold a 4-card Major!"

⁴"Partner, I hold **5** Spades. Please bid either 3**NT** or 4**S**, whichever you prefer."

On Trick **#1** WEST leads the Diamond 4 as **4th** from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" Suit so that EAST (and Declarer SOUTH) can use the "**Rule of 11**"² to determine how many Diamond cards higher than the Diamond

² Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see: "Some of the 40 or So Bridge Bidding/Play 'Rules'":
<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/rules.pdf>

4 Declarer SOUTH (or EAST) holds. EAST played his Diamond Jack "3rd Hand high" and Declarer SOUTH "won" with his own Diamond King.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed how many "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0504_a1.pdf