

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0505:
"As Declarer Is a Discard Better Than a Ruff?"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/index.html>

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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 3/26/89 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Make a Game to Beat the Experts". This "Real Deal" was played in the Knockout Swiss Team contest during the 1989 Spring North American Bridge Championships in Reno, NV. Pavlicek sat EAST on this bridge Board.

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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 (13)

S: J 7 3 2

H: A J T

D: 8

C: A K 8 6 3

WEST (11)

S: T 5

H: K 9 5

D: A K 9 2

C: J 9 7 2

EAST (9)

S: Q 9 8 6

H: Q

D: Q J 7 6 5 3

C: Q 4

SOUTH (7)

S: A K 4

H: 8 7 6 4 3 2

D: T 4

C: T 5

Bidding

NORTH

EAST

SOUTH

WEST

1**C**

2**D**

2**H**

3**D**

4**H**

PASS

PASS

PASS

On Trick **#1** WEST leads the Diamond Ace² thus "promising" the Diamond King and asking Partner EAST whether EAST can "win" a **3rd** Round of Diamonds either by (1) ruffing or (2) with the Diamond Queen assuming that the NORTH Dummy holds at least **3** Diamonds. WEST "wins" Trick **#1** with his Diamond Ace and on Trick **#2** leads his Diamond King to force Declarer SOUTH to ruff in the NORTH Dummy and thereby "shorten" Dummy ruffing power.

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

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

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0505_a1.pdf

² During the "Real Deal" WEST actually led the Diamond King but Esther prefers leading the Ace away from the A,K asking for a "signal" from Partner about who can "win" a **3rd** Round of the Suit. This is a matter of Partnership Agreement and the important thing is that both Partners are playing from the same page.