

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0507:
**"Clever Declarer Facing a 'Trump Stack' Can Defy
the Odds as Well as Omar Sharif's Analysis of
the Bridge Board"**

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 6/18/89 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Local Player Outshines Omar Sherif". This "Real Deal" was played in a June 9, 1989 Epson Worldwide Bridge Contest in which on the same day about 100,000 bridge players played the same 24 bridge Boards. The person who wrote the Board commentary for the Competition's analysis booklet was **Omar Sharif**. Sharif won the Best Supporting Actor Academy Awards Oscar for his portrayal in the film "Dr. Zhivago". The Board play described here was played by **2** Ft. Lauderdale, FL

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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.

players: Rich Waugh sitting SOUTH and Pavlicek's wife, Mabel, sitting NORTH. Waugh's play defied Sharif's analysis about what contract was possible on this "Real Deal".

Dealer: **WEST**

Vul: **NONE**

NORTH (12)

S: 7 2

H: A J 6 3 2

D: 3

C: A K T 9 7

WEST (6)

S: J 9 8 5

H: T 9 8 5

D: K 6

C: Q 8 4

EAST (9)

S: K

H: K Q 4

D: J T 9 8 7 2

C: 6 5 3

SOUTH (13)

S: A Q T 6 4 3

H: 7

D: A Q 5 4

C: J 2

Bidding

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

*NORTH's Heart-Club-Club bid "shows" a 5-5 shape.

SOUTH's Spade-Diamond-Spade bid "shows" a 6-4 shape and allows NORTH to set the final contract at 4S** because NORTH after SOUTH's Spade rebid knows that N/S together hold 6 + 2 = 8 Spades.

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

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What "Line of Play" should Declarer SOUTH initially plan to follow?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0507_a1.pdf