

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0509:
"Playing Defense Against Your LHO's 4H Contract:
Can You See Your
Only Path for Defeating SOUTH's Contract?"**

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 5/21/89 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Backdoor Attack Beats Contract".

© 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: **SOUTH**

Vul: **N/S**

NORTH (12)

S: 8 6 2

H: J T

D: A Q K J 6

C: J T 5

WEST (5)

S: Q J T 5

H: 5 4 2

D: 7 3

C: Q 8 7 4

EAST (11)

S: A 7 4 3

H: A 3

D: 9 8 5 4

C: K 9 2

SOUTH (12)

S: K 9

H: K Q 9 8 7 6

D: T 2

C: A 6 3

Bidding

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

*"Partner, I hold a 6th Heart card."

**"Partner, I hold 2 Hearts so together we hold at least 6 + 2 = 8 Heart cards."

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Spade Queen as the "top" of "touching" Honors in his "long" Suit.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What Spade card should EAST play on Trick #1?
3. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed how many HCPs should EAST assume that Partner WEST holds?
4. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed how many Diamonds should EAST assume that WEST likely holds?
5. What card should EAST lead once he first secures the lead?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0509_a1.pdf