

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0513:
"As Declarer Avoid 'Mistiming' Your Play
or the Consequences May Be Severe!"**

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 12/4/88 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Mistiming the Play Costs Game". This "Real Deal" Board was played with Pavlicek sitting EAST and his long-time Partner and co-author Bill Root sitting WEST during the Winter, 1988 Blue Ribbon Pairs competition in Nashville, TN.

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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: **WEST**

Vul: **BOTH**

NORTH (18)

S: A K Q 3

H: A T 9

D: K

C: Q T 9 6 2

WEST (6)

S: 5 4

H: Q J 5 3

D: Q 7 6 3

C: J 5 3

EAST (8)

S: T 9 6 2

H: K

D: J T 8 5 2

C: A 7 4

SOUTH (8)

S: J 8 7

H: 8 7 6 4 2

D: A 9 4

C: K 8

Bidding

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	1 C	PASS	1 H
Pass	1 S	PASS	1 NT
PASS	3 H	PASS	4 H
PASS	PASS	PASS	

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Diamond 3 as 4th from the "top" of his "long" and an unbid Diamond Suit so that EAST (and Declarer SOUTH) can use the "Rule of 11"² to determine how many Diamond cards higher than the Diamond 3 Declarer SOUTH (or EAST) holds. Declarer SOUTH "wins" Trick #1 with the NORTH Dummy's Diamond King singleton.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What are the probabilities of the various possible E/W Trump Heart "splits" of the 13 - 3 - 5 = 5 Heart cards?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0513_a1.pdf

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