

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0514:
"When Your LHO Opens with a 3S Pre-empt Bid,
That Bid Gives You as Declarer (and Your RHO) a
TON of Information to Guide
Your Play of the Hand"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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<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 8/13/89 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Eliminate Exit to Nullify Ruff". 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: **NONE**

NORTH (14)

S: T 2

H: K Q J 3

D: Q J T 3

C: A J 4

SOUTH (10)

S: K 4

H: T 9 7 6 5

D: A 9 8 4

C: K 3

Bidding

WEST

NORTH

EAST

SOUTH

3**S**

DBL*

PASS

4**H**

PASS

PASS

PASS

*NORTH's "Takeout/Demand **DOUBLE**" "promises" (1) ~13 HCPs, (2) "shortness" in Spades, and (3) 4 Heart cards.

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Diamond 2. EAST "ducks" and Declarer SOUTH "wins" Trick #1 with the NORTH Dummy's Diamond Queen.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What does WEST's lead of the Diamond 2 on Trick #1 likely mean? Is there anything that Declarer SOUTH can do about the Diamond situation?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0514_a1.pdf