

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0515:
"As Declarer Overcoming a *Perilous* Distribution
by Carefully 'Listening to the Auction'"

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/rpcr.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 8/14/88 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Perilous Distribution Causes Swing". This "Real Deal" Board was played with Pavlicek sitting SOUTH and his long-time Partner and co-author Bill Root sitting NORTH during the Summer, 1988 North American Bridge Championships Swiss Teams competition in Salt Lake City, UT.

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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: **SOUTH**

Vul: **N/S**

NORTH (7)

S: J 5

H: T 2

D: Q T 8 4

C: K J 9 6 2

WEST (7)

S: 9 8 7 6 4 3

H: 8

D: A K 9 5

C: 5 4

EAST (2)

S: --

H: J 9 6 5 4

D: J 8 6 3 2

C: T 7 3

SOUTH (24)

S: A K Q T 2

H: A K Q 7 3

D: --

C: A Q 8

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2 C	2 S	3 C	PASS
3 H	PASS	4 H	PASS
7 C	PASS	PASS	PASS

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Diamond Ace and Declarer SOUTH ruffed from his own Hand.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed how should Declarer SOUTH interpret WEST's Overcall bid is 2**S**?
3. What "Line of Play" should Declarer SOUTH initially plan to follow?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0515_a1.pdf