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Esther "Pop" Quiz #0524: "As Declarer 'Promoting' 'Low' 'Side Suit' Winners versus Making '*Unmarked Finesses*'"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen[1]

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The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" presents ideas and (here slightly modified) examples drawn from Marc Smith's September, 2026 article, "Play These Hands with Marc: Improve Your Chances", published in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin (p. 50). This article was originally published in the Bulletin in 2017. ACBL members can use the ACBL website to access for *free* archives of decades of articles published in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin.

About **Marc Smith**

Marc Smith (1960-) is a British bridge player, columnist, and writer. As a 25-year-old he represented Great Britain and won the 1985 European Union Junior Team Championship. Playing with his wife he later reached the finals of the World Mixed Pairs championship. With Barbara Seagram he authored the 1999 bridge book, 25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know, which won the "American Bridge Teachers' Association Shirley Silverman Award for Best Student Book". He is the author or co-author of more than **30** bridge books. Smith is also a monthly author of a bridge column in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin.

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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: ***E/W***

	*NORTH (**7**)* ***S:*** *A T 2* ***H:*** *K 3* ***D:*** *9 7 6 4 3 2* ***C:*** *9 5*	
*WEST (**10**)* ***S:*** *J 7 5* ***H:*** *9 7 2* ***D:*** *A Q T* ***C:*** *Q J T 3*		*EAST (**6**)* ***S:*** *Q 8 6 3* ***H:*** *8 5* ***D:*** *J 5* ***C:*** *K 8 6 4 2*
	*SOUTH (**17**)* ***S:*** *K 9 4* ***H:*** *A Q J T 6 4* ***D:*** *K 8* ***C:*** *A 7*	

Bidding

SOUTH	*WEST*	*NORTH*	*EAST*
*1**H***	*PASS*	*1**NT****	*PASS*
*3**H***	*PASS*	*4**H***	*PASS*
PASS	*PASS*		

***** *"Partner, I hold **7-11** HCPs and I deny holding **3+** Hearts."*

WEST leads the Club Queen as the "top" of "touching" Honors in an unbid Suit.

1. *Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer NORTH see?*

2. *One way that Declarer SOUTH can "win" an "extra" Trick is by successfully executing a finesse by leading a "low" NORTH Dummy Diamond toward his own Diamond King. Is that finesse part of SOUTH's optimal "Line of Play"?*

To see Esther's **suggested answers,** CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0524_a1.pdf