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Esther "Pop" Quiz #0531:
"As Declarer Playing a 6♡ Contract Can You '*Listen to the Auction*' to Successfully 'Place' a 'Missing' Queen that You *Must* Locate to 'Make' Your Contract?"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen[1]

To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/index.html
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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/rpco.htm
The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 4/3/88 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Finding a Queen Decides Match". The present "Real Deal" bridge Board was played in a March, 1988 North American Bridge Championships Team event. Pavlicek sat SOUTH as Declarer on this Board and his Partner Bill Root sat NORTH.

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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: ***NONE***

*NORTH (**13**)*
S: *--*
H: *A J 8 2*
D: *Q J 4*
C: *A J T 9 8 3*

*SOUTH (**13**)*
S: *J T 3*
H: *K T 3*
D: *A T 3*
C: *K Q 7 4*

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1**C**	PASS	1**H**	1**S**
PASS	1**NT***	2**S**	PASS
3**H**	PASS	4**C**	PASS
4**D****	**DBL*****	6**C**	PASS
PASS	PASS		

By Partnership Agreement WEST's bid says, "Partner, I can 'support' your Spades but I hold fewer than **6 or **7** HCPS."*

***"Partner, I hold the Diamond Ace."*

****This is a "**Lead-Directing DOUBLE**"[2] asking Partner EAST to lead a Diamond to an Honor that he holds."*

*WEST leads the Spade 5 as **4th** from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" Suit that Partner EAST (and Declarer SOUTH) can use the "**Rule of 11**"[3] to determine exactly how many Spades higher than the Spade 5 Declarer SOUTH (and EAST) holds. Declarer SOUTH "wins" Trick **#1** by ruffing from the NORTH Dummy.*

1. *What Honors can Declarer see that N/S are "missing"?*

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

3. *Where should Declarer "place" the "missing" Heart Queen?*

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[2] "Within the "**Esther Bridge Lessons**" see: "**7 Not-for-Penalty DOUBLEs**": https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/double.pdf

[3] Within the "**Esther Bridge Lessons**" see: "**Some of the 40 or So Bridge Bidding/Play 'Rules'":** https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/rules.pdf

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0531_a1.pdf