c:\quiz\q0538_q.docx 10/7/26

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0538:
"How to Play as Declarer When the Defenders Hold 5 Trump Cards Including the Trump Queen"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen[1]

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/rpco.htm
The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 9/4/88 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Trump Suit Requires Special Handling". This "Real Deal" was played in a 1988 North American Championship bridge competition in Salt Lake City.

© Copyright, Bruce Thompson, 2026. All rights reserved.

[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: ***NORTH***
Vul: ***NONE***

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

Bidding

NORTH	*EAST*	*SOUTH*	*WEST*
PASS	*PASS*	*1**S***	*PASS*
*2**S***	*PASS*	*4**S***	*PASS*
PASS	*PASS*		

WEST leads his Diamond 2 as ***4th*** *from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" unbid Suits so that Partner EAST (and Declarer SOUTH) can use the "**Rule of 11**"*[2] *to determine exactly how many Diamonds higher than the Diamond 2 Declarer SOUTH (and EAST) holds. Declarer SOUTH "wins" Trick* ***#1*** *with the NORTH Dummy's Diamond Ace.*

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

2. *How many Trump Spade cards do E/W together hold? What are the probabilities of all the possible E/W Trump "splits"?*

3. *After "winning" Trick* ***#1*** *with the NORTH Dummy Diamond Ace on Trick* ***#2*** *Declarer SOUTH led the NORTH Dummy's Trump Spade 2 and played his own Trump Spade Jack for an attempted "**unmarked finesse**"*[3] *and WEST "won" with his Trump*

---

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

[3] Within the "**Esther Bridge Lessons**" see: https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/U_M_S_Fin.pdf

*Spade Queen. Was Declarer SOUTH's attempted finesse on Trick **#2** "incorrect"?*

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0538_a1.pdf