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Esther "Pop" Quiz #0540: "'Correct' Play of a Difficult 3NT Contract When the Dummy Is Very 'Weak': *Both* the Declarer and the Defenders Can Execute a '*Holdup Play*'"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen[1]

To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:
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 2/14/88 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Defensive Holdup Foils Declarer". This "Real Deal" was played in a 1988 local Club Pairs competition.

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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: ***NORTH***
Vul: ***BOTH***

NORTH (***4***)
S: *7 6*
H: *9 5 3 2*
D: *T 4*
C: *A T 9 8 5*

WEST (***6***)
S: *Q T 8 2*
H: *6 4*
D: *K J 9 5 3 2*
C: *3*

EAST (***8***)
S: *J 9 3*
H: *Q J T 8*
D: *Q 6*
C: *Q 7 4 2*

SOUTH (***22***)
S: *A K 5 4*
H: *A K 7*
D: *A 8 7*
C: *K J 6*

Bidding

NORTH	*EAST*	*SOUTH*	*WEST*
PASS	*PASS*	*2**NT***	*PASS*
*3**C***	*PASS*	*3**S***	*PASS*
*3**NT***	*PASS*	*PASS*	*PASS*

WEST on Trick **#1** leads his Diamond 5 from his "longest and strongest" Suit *so that Partner EAST (and Declarer SOUTH) can use the "**Rule of 11**"*[2] *to determine exactly how many Diamonds higher than the Diamond 5 Declarer SOUTH (and EAST) holds. EAST playing "**3rd** Hand high" plays his Diamond Queen.*

1. *What Diamond card should Declarer SOUTH play on Trick **#1**?*

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0540_a1.pdf

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