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Esther "Pop" Quiz #0542:
"As Declarer Count 'Winners'
Even When Playing Suit Contracts"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen[1]

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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 4/17/88 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "The Disappearing Loser". This "Real Deal" was played in a 1988 Flight A Knockout Teams bridge game during the April, 1988 Southwestern Regional held in Miami Beach.

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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 (***13***)
S: *A 7 3*
H: *K 8 4 3*
D: *K T 6 2*
C: *K 5*

WEST (***9***)
S: *J 2*
H: *A 7 2*
D: *Q 9 7 3*
C: *Q 8 6 3*

EAST (***9***)
S: *Q T 9 6*
H: *Q 9*
D: *A 8 5 4*
C: *J 9 4*

SOUTH (***9***)
S: *K 8 5 4*
H: *J T 6 5*
D: *J*
C: *A T 7 2*

Bidding

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

****"Partner, I hold **2** 4-card Suits in the Majors."*
*****"Partner, I hold a "protected" Club Honor and want to keep talking."*

*WEST knows that N/S may hold a 4-3 Trump Heart "**Moysian Fit**" and so leads his Trump Heart 2 on Trick **#1** in order to deplete the NORTH Dummy's ruffing ability.*

1. *What Trump card should Declarer SOUTH play from the NORTH Dummy on Trick **#1**?*

2. *Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed should Declarer SOUTH then count "losers" or "winners"? What can Declarer SOUTH see?*

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0542_a1.pdf