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Esther "Pop" Quiz #0549:
"As Declarer Fighting the Battle for Trump Control When Playing a Part-Score Contract"

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 2/15/87 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "The Battle for Trump Control". This "Real Deal" was played in a 1987 Qualifying Round for the 1987 Grand National Team Championship. Here Pavlicek traces the story of play at *both* tables involving 1 Swiss Team with one Team Pair sitting N/S and the other sitting E/W.

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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 (***5***) ***S:*** *9 8 4 3* ***H:*** *9 8 7 4 3* ***D:*** *5* ***C:*** *A J 9*	
WEST (***12***) ***S:*** *6 2* ***H:*** *K J T 6* ***D:*** *Q J 8 7* ***C:*** *K Q 5*		*EAST* (***9***) ***S:*** *A J 5* ***H:*** *A 5 2* ***D:*** *T 2* ***C:*** *T 8 7 6 2*
	SOUTH (***14***) ***S:*** *K Q T 7* ***H:*** *Q* ***D:*** *A K 9 6 4 3* ***C:*** *4 3*	

Bidding

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

At both Swiss Teams tables WEST suspecting that N/S were relatively "short" in Trump Spades on Trick ***#1*** *led his Trump Spade 2. At Table* ***#1*** *EAST "won" Trick* ***#1*** *with his Trump Spade Ace and on Trick* ***#2*** *led his Trump Spade 5 which was "won" by Declarer SOUTH in his own Hand with his Trump Spade King. [Trump Spade Trick #1 and #2]*

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

2. *What are the probabilities of all the possible E/W 13 – 4 – 4 =* ***5*** *Trump Spade card "splits"?*

To see Esther's **suggested answers,** CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0549_a1.pdf