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Esther "Pop" Quiz #0550:
"As Declarer 'Placing' the Missing Club King by 'Listening to the Auction' to Guide Your 'Marked Finesse'"

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 3/8/87 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Good Card Reading Averts Finesse". This "Real Deal" was played in a 1987 Pairs competition in the Ft. Lauderdale Bridge Club. Club Vice-President Joe Dolman sat SOUTH as Declarer.

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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: ***N/S***

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

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

*EAST (**1**)*
S: *7 4 3 2*
H: *T 3 2*
D: *J 9*
C: *T 8 4 3*

*SOUTH (**22**)*
S: *A K*
H: *A Q 7 5 4*
D: *K T 4*
C: *A Q 7*

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2***C***	2***S***	PASS	PASS
2***NT***	PASS	3***C****	PASS
3***H***	PASS	3***S*****	PASS
4***C*****	PASS	4***NT***	PASS
5***S*****	PASS	6***H***	PASS
PASS	PASS		

****"Partner, do you hold a 4-card Major?"*
*****"Partner, I am cue-bidding Spades to show you interest in slam."*
******"Partner, I am bidding Aces 'up the line' and I hold the Club Ace."*
*******"Partner, I hold 3 Aces."*

*On Trick **#1** WEST led his Spade Queen and Declarer SOUTH "won" by playing his own Spade Ace.*

1. *Why did WEST Overcall by making a 2**S** bid?*

2. *Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed how many (a) HCPs and (b) Spade cards should Declarer SOUTH expect WEST to hold?*

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

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0550_a1.pdf