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# Esther "Pop" Quiz #0552:
# "As Declarer Can You '*Listen to the Auction*' to Foresee a Likely Opponent's 'Trump Stack'?"

**Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen**[1]

To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:
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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 5/3/87 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Tricky Lead Beats Cold Contract". This "Real Deal" was played in a 1987 Swiss Teams competition in the ACBL Southwestern Regional Bridge Tournament. On this "Real Deal" Mitch Chandler sat WEST as the Defender on lead on Trick **#1**.

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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:* ***BOTH***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | *NORTH (**13**)*<br>***S:*** *K J 7 3*<br>***H:*** *T 5*<br>***D:*** *A Q 7 6 2*<br>***C:*** *K 5* | |
| *WEST (**11**)*<br>***S:*** *A 8 6 4*<br>***H:*** *3*<br>***D:*** *K T 9*<br>***C:*** *A T 8 6 3* | | *EAST (**9**)*<br>***S:*** *Q T 9 5 2*<br>***H:*** *K 9 2*<br>***D:*** *J 8*<br>***C:*** *Q J 9* |
| | *SOUTH (**7**)*<br>***S:*** *--*<br>***H:*** *A Q J 8 7 6 4*<br>***D:*** *5 4 3*<br>***C:*** *7 4 2* | |

***Bidding***

| *SOUTH* | *WEST* | *NORTH* | *EAST* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *3**H*** | *PASS* | *4**H*** | *PASS* |
| *PASS* | *PASS* | | |

*On Trick **#1** WEST led his Spade 4, Declarer SOUTH played the NORTH Dummy's Spade Jack, EAST played the Spade Queen, and Declarer SOUTH "won" by ruffing from his own Hand.*

1. *Why did WEST "underlead" from his Spade Ace on Trick **#1**? Does this lead violate one of the "**ACBL Laws of Bridge**"?*

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
**https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0552_a1.pdf**