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Esther "Pop" Quiz #0553: "Play as Declarer When '*The 5 Level Does NOT Belong to the Opponents*'"

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 11/29/87 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Sparks Fly in Five-Level Frenzy". This "Real Deal" was played in a November, 1987 Open Pairs competition in the Gold Coast Regional Bridge Tournament in Hollywood, FL. On this "Real Deal" Cliff Russell of Miami sat SOUTH as the 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: ***BOTH***

	NORTH (***18***) ***S:*** *J* ***H:*** *A* ***D:*** *A Q T 9 6 5* ***C:*** *A Q J 5 3*	
WEST (***3***) ***S:*** *K T 9 8 7 6 3 2* ***H:*** *--* ***D:*** *4 2* ***C:*** *8 6 4*		*EAST* (***8***) ***S:*** *--* ***H:*** *J 8 6 4 2* ***D:*** *K J 7 3* ***C:*** *K T 9 7*
	SOUTH (***11***) ***S:*** *A Q 5 4* ***H:*** *K Q T 9 7 5 3* ***D:*** *8* ***C:*** *2*	

Bidding

SOUTH	*WEST*	*NORTH*	*EAST*
*4**H***	*4**S***	*5**D***	***DBL***
PASS	*PASS*	*5**H***	***DBL***
PASS	*PASS*	*PASS*	

*On Trick **#1** WEST led his Spade Ten as the "top" of an "interior" "touching card sequence", the NORTH Dummy's Spade Jack singleton was played, and EAST "won" by ruffing with his Trump Heart 2.*

1. *Why did NORTH at his **2nd** turn to bid within the auction bid 5**H** and not follow the bridge admonition "the 5 level belongs to the Opponents!" How did this bridge admonition become popularized?*

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

3. *What "Line of Play" should Declarer SOUTH initially follow?*

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0553_a1.pdf