

**Esther Discusses 2 Boards:
One Involving a Jacoby Transfer Leading
to a 6NT Contract, and One Involving
the Use of the
"Rule of 5" Leading to a 4H Bid**

Bruce Thompson

To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:
<https://esther-bridge.com/index.html>

Bruce: Today, we are honored to have with us Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, Quintuple Gold Emerald Life Master (20 Million+ ACBL MasterPoints), who will discuss 2 Boards: 1 involving a Jacoby Transfer leading to a 6NT contract, and 1 the use of the "Rule of 5" leading to a 4H bid. Esther, thanks for taking time to be with us today!

Esther: D**n it, Bruce! How many times do I have to tell you to **NEVER, ever** call me Esther! Always, **ALWAYS, ALWAYS** instead call me, Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen!

Bruce: Errr, well, Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, in any case, thank you for talking to us today. Here is the first Board that I wanted you to discuss.

Board #6

Tuesday 1/3/23 299er Knoxville Game

Dealer: EAST

Vul: E/W

NORTH (7)

S: 8
H: 8 3
D: Q J 8 7 3
C: K J 8 7 3

WEST (13)

S: A Q T 4 2
H: A K T 4 2
D: 2
C: 4 2

EAST (15)

S: K 6 3
H: Q 6 5
D: A 9 6 5
C: A Q T

SOUTH (5)

S: J 9 7 5
H: J 9 7
D: K T 4
C: 9 6 5

Bruce: Well, Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, today EAST, holding 15 HCPs, no voids, no singleton, and not more than 1 doubleton (in fact, no doubleton), opened 1**NT**. I assume you agree with this opening bid by EAST?

Esther: Bingo, my Bobble-headed Bupkus!

Bruce: Err, ok. Well, err, SOUTH, holding 5 HCPs, Passed. I know you agree with that bid. On this Board, WEST then bid 2**D**, a Jacoby transfer to Hearts showing 5+ Hearts, but possibly 0 HCPs. Do you agree with this bid?

Esther: Well, my Simpering Simpleton, actually, I totally do. Showing **exact** card counts when headed toward a suit contract is vitally important! Because the Jacoby transfer is totally "forcing", WEST knows that WEST will get a re-bid opportunity. In that re-bid, WEST will next bid 2**S**, showing both (1) a 2-suited hand, and (2) HCPs. There is no other "response" bid that shows a 2-suited hand. For example, as an Opener, WEST

could have bid Flannery, if E/W played Flannery.¹ But there is no single, one response bid to show a hand 2-suited in the Majors.

Bruce: So, next, NORTH passes, EAST makes the required 2**H** bid, SOUTH Passes, and then WEST, of course, bids 2**S**. Then, because EAST held the King of Spades, and only the Queen of Hearts, but suspecting a 5-3 fit in a Major, then bid 4**S**. Do you agree with this bid?

Esther: Well, again, it is obviously a judgment call, but it is certainly reasonable.

Bruce: Well, Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, WEST then bid 4**NT**, asking for "key" cards (i.e., the 4 Aces, and the King and Queen of trump). But WEST did not hold first- or second-round control in every suit!!! Furthermore, WEST was exploring slam prospects in Spades, but could only count roughly 16 plus 13 = 29 HCPs!!!

Esther: Well, my simpering simpleton, REMEMBER that you can indeed make a game with 22 or 23 HCPs, and you can make a small slam with 27 or 29 HCPs!!! And WEST does hold a singleton Diamond, and a doubleton Club. And because EAST holds a **NT** opening hand, and can't hold many honors in the Majors, given WEST's holdings in both Majors, EAST must hold high honors in the Minors, probably in both Minors!

Bruce: Well, Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, EAST responded 5**D**. Because E/W were playing Roman Key Card 1430,² EAST was showing 2 Aces plus the King of Spades! Now WEST knew that the Partnership held all 4 Aces, plus the at least the top 3 Spades! The resulting 6**S** bid then was truly a thing of beauty!

Esther: Bingo, bupkus!

Bruce: Well, Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, here is the second Board that I would like to discuss.

¹ See, within the Esther Bridge Lessons, "Some Duplicate Bridge Conventions," #6: Flannery.

² See, within the Esther Bridge Lessons, "Some Duplicate Bridge Conventions," #3: RKC 1430.

Board #18

Tuesday 1/3/23 299er Knoxville Game

Dealer: EAST

Vul: N/S

NORTH (5)

S: K 5 3
H: 6 5
D: 9 8 5 3 2
C: Q 8 7

WEST (14)

S: A Q 7 2
H: A Q J 7 4 3
D:
C: J T 2

EAST (9)

S: J T 9 6 4
H: K T 9
D: K Q 6
C: 4 3

SOUTH (12)

S: 8
H: 8 2
D: A J T 4
C: A K 9 6 5

Bidding

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
PASS	1 D	1 H	2 D
2 H	3 D	4 H	PASS
PASS	PASS		

Bruce: Well, Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, do you agree that SOUTH should open with only 12 HCPs?

Esther: Well, 12 is pretty darn close to 13, isn't it? And $12 + 5 + 4 = 21$, so the requirements of the "Rule of 20" are also met. So this is a no brainer!

Bruce: Well, Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, then did WEST correctly overcall 1**H**, rather than 2**H**?

Esther: Yes. WEST is too strong to make a weak jump shift, even though WEST does hold 6 Hearts, including 3 of the top 4 Hearts.

Bruce: Well, Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, once NORTH bids 2**D**, and EAST supports Hearts showing 3+ Hearts, do you agree that WEST should have bid 4**H**? Afterall, EAST with a "constructive" raise is only showing 8-10 HCPs, and $9 + \text{WEST's } 14$ only equals 23 HCPs!!!! Can you

really make a game contract with only something like
23 HCPs???

Esther: Well, the "Rule of 5", which dictates adding up the number of missing Aces, Kings, and Queens WEST holds, equals 5, not counting holding missing top Diamonds, since WEST holds a Diamond void! And that result of 5 says, "Go!" Furthermore, WEST holds 2 Aces. And WEST knows that NORTH will lead a Diamond, which WEST can then immediately trump!