

Esther Discusses an Interesting Board In Which Responder Holds a Void in Partner's Opening Preempt Bid Suit

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Bruce: Today, we are honored to have with us Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, Quintuple Gold Emerald Life Master (20 Million+ ACBL MasterPoints), who will talk us through "**an interesting Board in which Responder holds a void in Partner's opening preempt bid suit**". Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, thanks for taking the 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 Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen! Always, **ALWAYS, ALWAYS** instead call me, Esther!

Bruce: Errr, well, sorry again about that, Ms. Klinktoast..., err, I mean Esther. Well, today let's discuss the following Board, in which Responder NORTH held a void in Opener SOUTH's preempt bid Major!

Board

Dealer: SOUTH

Vul: E/W

		NORTH (19)	
		S: --	
		H: K Q 8 2	
		D: K J 8	
		C: A K Q J 9 6	
	WEST (8)		EAST (3)
	S: Q 8 7		S: K 6 5 4
	H: A 5 3		H: T 4
	D: Q 7 6 5 2		D: T 9 4
	C: 7 2		C: T 8 4 3
		SOUTH (10)	
		S: A J T 9 3 2	
		H: J 9 7 6	
		D: A 3	
		C: 5	

Esther: OK, *my gracious giver*.

Bruce: Errr, well, Esther... First, I am not sure I believe this, but are you again *actually being nice to me*? And second, would you comment on what you would bid? Here SOUTH as Dealer opened 2**S**, which seems reasonable, since SOUTH held only 10 HCPs, but 6 Spades, including 3 of the top 5 honors, plus the "touching" J,T,9 sequence.

Esther: Well, *my handsome hero*, certainly, I am indeed being nice to you. If I can vacillate between demanding to be called "Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen", versus "Esther", why can't I vacillate between being mean, versus nice?

Bruce: Well, OK, Ms. Klink..., errr, I mean, Esther. Please talk us through your thinking about this Board.

Esther: Well, *my inquisitive interlocutor*, of course. NORTH knows that SOUTH has a "weak" hand, but at least honors in Spades, and thus some HCPs, to combine with NORTH's 19 HCPs. But NORTH also knows that the two hands simply do not "fit"! Certainly a Spade bid at higher than the 2 level seems out of the question, because Opponents hold more Spades than N/S combined! NORTH could bid 2**NT!**, to "demand" that SOUTH expose and "side entries" in a suit other than Spades, to determine whether a **NT** bid is reasonable. But the response will be at the 3 level, and the only bid NORTH

can make after SOUTH's response is **3NT**. So, if NORTH makes any bid other than Pass (with N/S holding only 6 Spade Trump cards), N/S will nevertheless end up in **3NT** no matter what. And NORTH knows that a slam bid in **NT** is out of the question, given NORTH holding a void in Spades, and SOUTH being "weak". So, I think NORTH should suck it up, and take a shot by bidding a somewhat risky **3NT** bid, not knowing that SOUTH holds a side entry, but expecting to take 6 Club tricks, 1 or 2 Diamond Tricks, 1 or 2 Heart Tricks, and hopefully at least 1 Spade Trick. At least NORTH can take some solace from knowing that WEST Passed, and that N/S together hold at least around 26 HCPs!