

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0174:
"Playing NT Contracts as Declarer:
Running an 'Avoidance Play' Against the
'Dangerous Opponent' and 'Promoting' 'Winners'"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/index.html>

To return to the "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quizzes", CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz.html>

Esther on her "**Esther Bridge Lessons**" website has previously recommended the "**BBO Bridge Master**" website:

<https://www.bridgebase.com/v3/anon/bridgemaster>

The "**BBO Bridge Master**" website allows you to declare your skill level, then shows a series of Hands and announces the final contract, each of which you then play as Declarer. At the end of play you can then request a solution in which the optimal "Line of Play" is discussed step by step. The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" question is drawn from "**BBO Bridge Master**" Level-2 **Lesson A-11**. Note that across repeated play "**BBO Bridge Master**" may change some Hands in given lessons. Esther may have altered some cards in some Hands.

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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 in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

Dealer: **SOUTH**

Board A-11, Level 2

NORTH (10)

S: 4 3
H: 5 4 3
D: K 6 5
C: A K 7 6 5

WEST (8)

S: A Q 9 8 7
H: 9 8 7 6
D: 8 7
C: Q 8

EAST (7)

S: T 6 5
H: Q J T
D: Q J T 9
C: J T 9

SOUTH (15)

S: K J 2
H: A K 2
D: A 4 3 2
C: 4 3 2

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1NT	PASS	3NT	PASS
PASS	PASS		

WEST leads the Spade 8 as the 4th from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" Suit thus enabling the SOUTH Declarer (and Partner EAST) to invoke the "**Rule of 11**".

1. Once the NORTH Dummy comes "down" Declarer SOUTH can use the "**Rule of 11**". Exactly how many Spades higher than the Spade 9 does EAST hold?
2. How many "sure" "winners" does Declarer SOUTH see in the N/S Hands?
3. What is Declarer SOUTH's "worst" nightmare?
4. Where can Declarer SOUTH "promote" additional "winners"?
5. After Declarer SOUTH "wins" Trick #1 with his Spade Jack what should Declarer lead on Trick #2? And what should Declarer SOUTH play in the NORTH Dummy on Trick #2?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0174_a1.pdf