

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0177:
"As Declarer on a Suit Contract
Be Wary of Taking a Trick #1 Finesse:
Examples from David Bird's 2005 Book,
'52 Great Bridge Tips on Declarer Play' "**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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

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These ideas and example Boards are drawn from Tip #33 (pp. 103-105) in David Bird's excellent 2005 book, 52 Great Bridge Tips on Declarer Play. Esther may have altered some of the cards in some of the Hands.

About David Bird

David Bird is a highly regarded British bridge writer. He has authored more than 140 bridge books and has claimed that he is the most prolific bridge author of all time. Bird's 2005 treatise, 52 Great Bridge Tips on Declarer Play, is one of these 140+ books. Bird also is the bridge correspondent for both the Mail on Sunday and the London Evening Standard newspapers. He also over 30+ years has authored in Bridge Magazine a series of humorous instructional bridge stories about fictional bridge-playing monks in the fictional St. Titus Monastery.

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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.

NORTH (13)

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

WEST (3)

S: 9
H: 9 4 3
D: Q 9 7 2
C: J 8 7 4 2

EAST (7)

S: K J T 5 4 3
H: 8
D: J 6 4
C: Q T 3

SOUTH (17)

S: Q 7 2
H: A K J T 6 2
D: A 5
C: K 5

Bidding*

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1H	PASS	2D**	PASS
2H	PASS	3H	PASS
4NT	PASS	5S***	PASS
6H	PASS	PASS	

*The bidding here is by Esther.

**This bid is a "2 Over 1 Convention"² bid (1) showing 13+ HCPs and (2) 4+ Diamonds and (3) does not deny "support" for Partner's Hearts.

***This bid is a "Roman 'Key' Card ('RKC') Convention" response showing among the 4 Aces and the 1 King of Trump 2 "key" cards plus the 1 Queen of the Trump Hearts.

WEST leads the Spade 9.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy comes "down" Declarer SOUTH sees that WEST's lead provides a "natural" opportunity to finesse on Trick #1. Which card should Declarer SOUTH play from the NORTH Dummy on Trick #1?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0177_a1.pdf

² Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see "Esther Bridge Conventions Lesson #1: '2 Over 1' Bidding Convention":
https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/2_over_1.pdf