

## Esther "Pop" Quiz #0186:

**"In Playing NT Contracts as Declarer Entries to Your 'Closed' Hand May Also be *Vital*: Protecting Entries to the Hand Containing 'Touching' Cards that Can be 'Promoted' into Winners"**

**Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen<sup>1</sup>**

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 B-13**. 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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<sup>1</sup> 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](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.

**BBO Bridge Master Level 2 Lesson B-13**

Dealer: **NORTH**

NORTH (14)

**S:** K 3  
**H:** A 4 3 2  
**D:** A K 6 5 4  
**C:** 3 2

WEST (4)

**S:** T 8 7 6 5  
**H:** 9 8  
**D:** 8 7  
**C:** A 8 7 6

EAST (11)

**S:** Q 9 4  
**H:** K Q J T  
**D:** Q J T 9  
**C:** 5 4

SOUTH (11)

**S:** A J 2  
**H:** 7 6 5  
**D:** 3 2  
**C:** K Q J T 9

**Bidding**

| NORTH       | EAST | SOUTH       | WEST        |
|-------------|------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 <b>D</b>  | PASS | 2 <b>C</b>  | <b>PASS</b> |
| 2 <b>D</b>  | PASS | 2 <b>NT</b> | PASS        |
| 3 <b>NT</b> | PASS | PASS        | PASS        |

Against a **NT** contract WEST on Trick #1 leads 4<sup>th</sup> from the "top" of his "longest and longest" Suit so that Partner EAST (and Declarer SOUTH) can invoke the "**Rule of 11**"<sup>2</sup> to determine respectively how many Spade cards higher than the Spade 6 Declarer SOUTH holds and how many cards higher than the Spade 6 Defender EAST holds.

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<sup>2</sup> The "**Rule of 11**" says if Declarer SOUTH subtracts from 11 – the face value of the led card minus (1) the number Spade cards higher than the Spade 6 the NORTH Dummy holds and (2) how Spade cards higher than the Spade 6 Declarer SOUTH himself holds then Declarer SOUTH knows exactly how many Spades higher than the Spade 6 Defender EAST holds. Because  $11 - 6 - 1 - 2 = 5 - 1 - 2 = 2$ , Declarer SOUTH knows that EAST holds exactly 2 Spade cards higher than the 6.

The "**Rule of 11**" says if Defender SOUTH subtracts from 11 – the face value of the led card minus (1) the number Spade cards higher than the Spade 6 the NORTH Dummy holds and (2) how Spade cards higher than the Spade 6 Defender EAST himself holds then Defender EAST knows exactly how many Spades higher than the Spade 6 Declarer SOUTH holds. Because  $11 - 6 - 1 - 2 = 5 - 1 - 2 = 2$ , Declarer SOUTH knows that EAST holds exactly 2 Spade cards higher than the 6.

1. *Once the NORTH Dummy comes "down" what N/S "winners" does Declarer SOUTH see?*
2. *What possible cards can Declarer SOUTH see that can be "promoted" into vitally-needed additional winners?*
3. *What Spade should Declarer SOUTH play from the NORTH Dummy on Trick #1? Why?*

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0186 a1.pdf>