

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0190:
"Tip #11 from David Bird's 2005 Book,
'52 Great Bridge Tips on Declarer Play':
Tempt Opponents to
'Cover an Honor with an Honor' "**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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These ideas and example Boards are drawn from Tip #11 (pp. 38-39) 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.

Dealer: SOUTH

NORTH (11)

S: T 2
H: K J 7 3
D: A T 7 3
C: K 9 8

WEST (6)

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

EAST (6)

S: Q 8 7 4
H: A 8 5
D: 8 4 2
C: 7 4 2

SOUTH (17)

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

Bidding*

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1NT	PASS	2C	PASS
2D	PASS	3NT	PASS
PASS	PASS		

*This bidding is by Esther.

Given that EAST was silent throughout the auction WEST leads 4th from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" Suit, the Spade 6. EAST and Declarer SOUTH both intuit that WEST's lead is 4th from the "top" of WEST's "longest" Suit, so once the Dummy comes down EAST invokes the "Rule of 11" and subtracts 6 from 11 = 5, and seeing 1 Spade card in the NORTH Dummy higher than the 6 plus 3 Spade cards in his own Hand higher than the 6 subtracts 5 - 1 - 3 = 1; EAST now knows the Declarer SOUTH holds exactly 1 card higher than the Spade 6.

Declarer SOUTH subtracts 6 from 11 = 5, and seeing 1 Spade card in the NORTH Dummy higher than the 6 plus 1 Spade card in his own Hand higher than the 6 subtracts 5 - 1 - 1 = 3; SOUTH now knows EAST holds exactly 3 cards higher than the Spade 6.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy comes "down" how many "winning" Tricks can Declarer SOUTH count?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0190_a1.pdf