

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0472:
"As Declarer Do You Want to
'Listen to the Auction' and *Know* or
Do You Instead Want to Follow
'General Bridge Principles'?"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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

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

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About Richard Pavlicek

Richard Pavlicek (1945-) has won **11** North American Bridge Championships, including a record-setting **3** straight wins in the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, 1982-84, and again in 1990. He won the 1973 inaugural Grand National Teams tournament and repeated a win there in 1997. He has written or co-authored several bridge books, including with co-author William S. Root their 1981 book, Modern Bridge Conventions. From 1984 until 1990 Pavlicek was the Bridge Columnist for the Fort Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel. Esther particularly likes the Bridge Simulation Studies presented on his bridge website:

<https://www.rpbridge.net/rpsi.htm>

and his re-posts of his newspaper bridge columns:

<https://www.rpbridge.net/rpco.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 11/16/85 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Throw-In Play Justifies Bold Bid". The following "Real Deal" Board was played by Jeanni St. Jean sitting SOUTH in the Fall, 1986 finals of the North American Open Pairs Championship.

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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, 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.

Dealer: **EAST**

Vul: **E/W**

NORTH (11)

S: J 7

H: A J T 8 3

D: Q 8 7

C: K 6 2

WEST (0)

S: T 8 6 5 4

H: 9 4 2

D: 6 3

C: 9 7 4

EAST (15)

S: A K Q 9 3

H: --

D: K J T 5

C: Q T 8 5

SOUTH (14)

S: 2

H: K Q 7 6 5

D: A 9 4 2

C: A J 3

Bidding

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 S	2 H	PASS	4 H
DBL	PASS	4 S	PASS
PASS	5 H	PASS	PASS
PASS			

WEST leads his Spade 5 as **4th** from the "top" of his bid Spades so that Partner EAST (and Declarer SOUTH) can use the "**Rule of 11**"² to determine exactly how many Spades higher than the Spade 5 Declarer SOUTH (or EAST) holds. EAST "won" Trick **#1** with his Spade Ace. On Trick **#2** EAST led his Spade King and Declarer SOUTH ruffed.

1. How many Spades and HCPs does EAST's initial 1**S** opening bid show? How many HCPs and Spade cards does WEST's bid of 4**S** as Responder "show"?
2. What does EAST's 2nd bid of **DOUBLE** "show"?
3. Was SOUTH's final bid of 5**H** prudent?
4. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "winners" should Declarer SOUTH see?

² Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see "Some of the 40 or So Bridge Bidding/Play 'Rules'":
<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/rules.pdf>

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0472_a1.pdf