

# 270. Pathfinder

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West: Nil vulnerable

North  
♠ A2  
♥ K6  
♦ J10  
♣ Q987543

South  
♠ K987654  
♥ A103  
♦ A32  
♣ --

West	North	East	South
2♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

(1) Weak two

West leads the ♥Q. Plan the play.

If spades are 2-2, you have 7 spade tricks, 2 hearts and the ♦A, 10 tricks. Best not to rely on a 2-2 break. What if spades are 3-1. Then you have a spade loser and need to deal with the third round of hearts and the two diamond losers. You can organize a diamond ruff in dummy. Take the ♥K and duck a diamond. Win the return and play ♦A and ruff a diamond. You lose a diamond, a spade and a heart. Even if West ruffs in with the singleton ♠3 on the third diamond, you over-ruff with the ♠A, cross to the ♥A and ruff the third heart with the ♠2. Now you lose a diamond and 2 spades, but that is all.

But what if spades are 4-0? There is a line of play that caters for that as well.

Dealer West: Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ A2	
	♥ K6	
	♦ J10	
	♣ Q987543	
West		East
♠ --		♠ QJ103
♥ QJ9875		♥ 42
♦ Q654		♦ K987
♣ KJ10		♣ A62
	South	
	♠ K987654	
	♥ A103	
	♦ A32	
	♣ --	

Win the ♥K, cross to the ♥A and play the ♥10. West covers with the ♥J and you discard a diamond from dummy. If West has a spade to play, take the ♠A, cross to the ♦A and ruff a diamond. You lose a heart, a diamond and a spade, making 10 tricks.

If West shifts to a club, you ruff, cash ♦A, diamond ruff, club ruff, diamond ruff with the ♠A, club ruff. You are down to ♠K-9-8-7 only. You exit with a low spade and lose only a heart and 2 spades, making 10 tricks.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

North

♠ 98

♥ QJ10

♦ AK532

♣ 764

South

♠ QJ7

♥ AK

♦ J1096

♣ KQJ8

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT(15-17 points)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West leads the ♠5 (fourth-highest): eight – ace – seven. East returns the ♠4: queen – two – nine. Plan the play.

**Why not phone or email your bridge partners and compare your answers and your reasoning?**

*If you hate speeding tickets, raise your right foot.*

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