270. Pathfinder

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West: Nil vulnerable

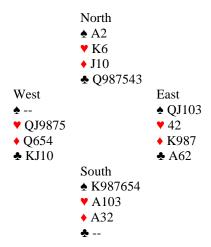
North **♠** A2 **♥** K6 **♦** J10 ♣ Q987543 South **★** K987654 ♥ A103 ♦ A32 <u>--</u> West North East South **2**♥⁽¹⁾ Pass Pass 2♠ Pass 3♣ Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠ All Pass (1) Weak two

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



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.

A great gift: *The Power of Pass* (by Harold Schogger and Ron Klinger). \$A25.00 Available from Suzie Klinger, post free until 2021: email suzie@ronklingerbridge.com or telephone 0411 229 705.