

# The Goat Coup

Contributed by: Jack Spear



*Nanacy and Jack Spear  
in the year 2005*

### The Holding:

♠ 32  
♥ Q2  
♦ AJ2  
♣ AKJ1098

Matchpoints  
Vulnerable: None  
RHO opens 1♥

### The Auction:

South	West	North	East
1♥	2♣	3♥	4♠
5♥	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West leads the ♣ Ace, and the dummy is tabled:

### The Dummy:

♠ 54  
♥ K543  
♦ 109876  
♣ 32

Everyone follows small to the first two Clubs, so I shift to a Spade. Partner plays the Ace of Spades, winning; partner follows with the Queen of Spades, and declarer wins the Spade King. So I am thinking that declarer has no more black cards, and probably started with 6 Hearts and 3 Diamonds. The Ace of Hearts from declarer is followed by a small Heart to dummy, with partner discarding a low Spade. I am visualizing the remaining cards in the ending:

## Remaining Cards:

Dummy

♠ - -

♥ 54

♦ 109876

♣ - -

Declarer

♠ - -

♥ J1098

♦ KQ3

♣ - -

So when declarer plays the ten of Diamonds to the King, I simply play a low Diamond in order to win the next two Diamond tricks. This is called the Bath Coup, and will make a good story in the bar afterwards.

**WAIT!** ... Declarer has won the King of Diamonds, and now plays a small Diamond in tempo. What if declarer never had the Diamond Queen, and the layout in the ending was actually this:

Dummy

♠ - -

♥ 54

♦ 109876

♣ - -

Declarer

♠ - -

♥ J1098

♦ K43

♣ - -

Now I must play the Ace to “swallow” partner’s Queen, as the only way to win two Diamond tricks. Playing the Ace here is called the *Alligator Coup*, and will make a good story in the bar afterwards.

**WAIT!** ... What if I play the Ace, and partner **does not** have the queen? I will be the **goat** in the bar afterwards.

What if I play the Jack, and partner **does** have the Queen? I will be the **goat** in the bar afterwards.

What would you do? [Knowing the declarer provided me no clue as to which cards would be played at what tempo.]

Fill in the ending of the story for yourself, choosing between the *Bath Coup* and the *Alligator Coup*. When I failed to get this one right, my clever friends at the bar had a name for the new coup I had just invented: **THE GOAT COUP!**