

Crocodile beats Scissors beats Paper by *Derrick Browne*

The trials for the NSW open and women's teams concluded over Easter. The qualifying pairs for the Open were: 1. Andrew Peake and Kieran Dyke. 2. Bruce Neill and Mike Hughes. 3. Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer. For the Women's: 1. Judy Mott and Avril Zetts. 2. Helen Lowry and Berri Folkard. 3. Inez Glander and Marcia Scudder.

Here is a deal from the qualifying rounds:

Dealer North, EW vul.

	NORTH		
	S Q84		
	H 52		
	D K93		
	C AK732		
WEST		EAST	
S AT		S K6	
H AJ98763		H K4	
D T		D J8652	
C J95		C Q864	
	SOUTH		
	S J97532		
	H QT		
	D AQ74		
	C T		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	<i>Gill</i>		<i>Horwitz</i>
	1C	Pass	1S
3H	Pass	Pass	3S
Pass	4S	All Pass	

West led his singleton diamond. Helen Horwitz won dummy's king and played the CA, on which East gave count with the C8 (high-low to show an even number of cards). Helen followed this with the CK, pitching a heart, then played a third club.

East was reluctant to rise with the CQ as this would set up dummy's C7 as a winner. So the third club ran around to West's jack, with Helen pitching her last heart. Now West could not reach partner's hand via the heart suit. This communication-cutting loser-on-loser play is called the Scissors Coup.

Had Helen not broken the East-West communications, West could get in with the SA when Helen started to draw trumps, then underlead the HA to partner's king, and ruff the diamond return for one down.

At another table, Alan Walsh found the same play, although he was declarer as North after a transfer sequence, and East had not squandered the C8 on an early round of the suit. Now when declarer played A-K-another club to ditch the hearts from hand, East (who had the Q-8 of clubs remaining) should have risen with the CQ to stop partner from being thrown on lead with the CJ.

Hopping up with an honour in this way, to stop partner being put on lead, is called a Crocodile Coup. However, East didn't see what was coming so thought his clubs were scrap paper that would be ruffed, so he played a routine "second hand low", and declarer's Scissors did the snip.

The Trumps Easter Sunday Teams was won by Jamie Ebery, Helena Dawson, Maurice Van Der Vlugt and Dagmar Neumann. On this deal, Dagmar held the South cards in 4H, doubled by West:

	NORTH		
	S T842		
	H K3		
	D 976		
	C K982		
WEST		EAST	
S AKQ		S J9753	
H T954		H J	
D T84		D J532	
C AJ3		C T74	
	SOUTH		
	S 6		
	H AQ8762		
	D AKQ		
	C Q65		

There are eight red suit winners, and one trick can easily be set up in clubs. One more trick is needed.

Dagmar ruffed the second round of spades, then played a heart to the king. Another spade was led and ruffed, then the A-Q of hearts cashed. Next came the A-K-Q of diamonds, then a club to the king, and dummy's last spade was led and ruffed. West overruffed, but was end played into leading clubs so Dagmar's CQ became her tenth trick.