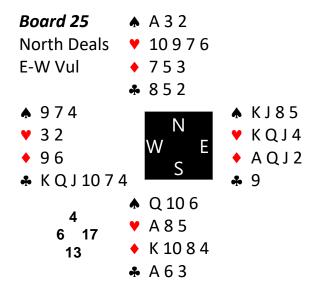
Memphis TN NABC - IMP Pairs Qualifying Round



EW 3♣; E 1N; EW 1♠; E 1♥; E 1♦; Par −110 North West East South MEERSCHAERT Gentry **COLLINS** George Pass 1 • **Pass** 4**.**¹ **1** Pass All pass 1. Splinter, a singleton club and four spades

Paul says: This hand is my favorite, and I have to give kudos to Dave on this one, as he kept his cool and concentrated on the hand before him.

Once Dave opens 1 in 2nd seat, the first thought that comes to mind is Dave probably has a good hand as both opponents are silent! If I had a way to sign off in clubs I would but our convention card does not allow it. So, what to do?

I bid 1 ! While this may seem strange it has a lot going for it:

If partner bids 1NT i now have a way to play 3.

If partner bids 2NT, I will gamble 3NT with my 6 possible club tricks.

If partner raises to 2♠, i will try and make it!

If partner raises to 3♠, I will most likely go down --- but not always.

The opponents might actually need to play in spades, not sure why I am bidding this, but stranger things happen. Partner does have a good hand. He splinters to 4. You can guess what I did here. I passed!

One slip by the defense and 44 makes on time.

[ED: The other 12 times this board played resulted in 73NT bids all going down, $1 \blacklozenge E$, $3 \blacklozenge E$, $2 \clubsuit W$, $3 \clubsuit E$, $3 \clubsuit W$. This was a "top" for Dave and Paul for 5.09 IMPs.]