

Memphis TN NABC - IMP Pairs Qualifying Round

Board 25

North Deals	♠ A 3 2		
E-W Vul	♥ 10 9 7 6		
	♦ 7 5 3		
	♣ 8 5 2		
♠ 9 7 4		♠ K J 8 5	
♥ 3 2		♥ K Q J 4	
♦ 9 6		♦ A Q J 2	
♣ K Q J 10 7 4		♣ 9	
	♠ Q 10 6		
	♥ A 8 5		
	♦ K 10 8 4		
	♣ A 6 3		

EW 3♣; E 1N; EW 1♠; E 1♥; E 1♦; Par -110

West	North	East	South
MEERSCHAERT	Gentry	COLLINS	George
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♣ ¹	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 4♣ makes on time.

[ED: The other 12 times this board played resulted in 7 3NT bids all going down, 1♦E, 3♦E, 2♣W, 3♣E, 3♣W. This was a "top" for Dave and Paul for 5.09 IMPs.]