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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

12th March 2010 Neither vulnerable. South deals.

	NORTH ♠ K 9 8 3 ♥ K ♦ 3 ♣ A K J 10 8 5 4	
WEST ♠ Q J ♥ Q 9 7 6 4 ♦ A K 10 8 5 2 ♣ Void		EAST ♠ Void ♥ 10 8 5 2 ♦ Q J 7 4 ♣ Q 9 7 6 3
	SOUTH ♠ A 10 7 6 5 4 2 ♥ A J 3 ♦ 9 6 ♣ 2	

SOUTH 2 Spade 5 Spade Pass	WEST 3 Diamond Pass Pass	NORTH 4 Spade Pass 6 Spade	EAST 5 Diamond 6 Diamond All Pass
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OPENING LEAD: ?

This deal is from the Scotland-Ireland match in the British Women's Team Championship some years ago. Scotland was sitting North-South.

As far as we are concerned, no pre-emptive bid should contain two aces. We would rather open one spade at any vulnerability than two spades at this vulnerability. The result was that North, not expecting anything in defense, took a phantom sacrifice when his side held three aces and three kings and the opponents were contracting for 12 tricks!

Even so, six spades was not without a chance. Indeed, only one lead can defeat the slam – and West found it. She led the deuce of diamonds. East was surprised to find that her jack of diamonds won the trick, and the opening card chosen carried a suit-preference signal for the lower plain suit – clubs. She duly returned a club and West ruffed – down one.

At the other table the Scottish South opened one spade and, after a competitive auction, reached six spades. Here East had not supported partner's diamonds and so West had no reason to underlead her diamond honors. The king of diamonds was the only trick for the defense.

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