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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

12/16/2009 North-South vulnerable. South deals.

	NORTH A Q 7 3 Q 3 9 5 4 2 A J 6	
WEST 6 9 6 4 2 K J 8 6 K Q 10 3		EAST 9 4 J 10 8 5 10 7 9 8 5 4 2
	SOUTH K J 10 8 5 2 A K 7 A Q 3 7	

SOUTH 1 Spade Pass Pass 6 Spade	WEST Pass 3 Club 4 NT All Pass	NORTH 2 NT Pass Pass	EAST Pass 4 Spade 5 Club
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Opening lead: King of

How early can you claim a slam? It depends. Here, if you trust the opening lead, you can claim at trick one!

North's two no trump was a forcing raise in spades and South's three clubs showed a singleton. After North showed no additional values, South used key-card Blackwood to discover that North held two aces and the queen of trumps and settled in the small slam.

West led the king of clubs, and declarer made short work of the hand. He won the ace of clubs and ruffed a club in hand. After drawing trumps and clearing the hearts, declarer returned to dummy with a trump to lead the jack of clubs. Instead of ruffing, however, he discarded a diamond loser from hand.

West won a trick he did not expect but did not enjoy being on lead. A heart or a club would allow declarer to ruff in dummy while discarding the queen of diamonds from hand, and a diamond would be into declarer's major tenace. Either way, South lost only a club trick.

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