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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

21st Jan 2011 North-South vulnerable. West deals.

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

North	East	South	West
--	--	--	Pass
1Heart	Pass	1 Spade	Pass
3 Spade	Pass	5 NT	Pass
6 Diamond	Pass	6 Spade	All Pass

Opening lead: ?

What is the strongest hand you have seen where your side reaches a slam but you can find no fast entry to partner's hand, despite the fact that he held enough for a strong notrump? Is there a clue in the auction to suggest the killing lead against your spade slam?

Note that North's 16 points contain at least one high honor in every suit. South's five no trump was the Grand Slam Force and North's six diamonds showed one of the three top honors.

Since East could have doubled six diamonds for that lead, West chose to lead a club! Declarer had no winning guess in the suit, and there was no way he could avoid losing the ace of trumps and a club! A perfect hand for those using canape methods, where you bid the shorter of two suits first.

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