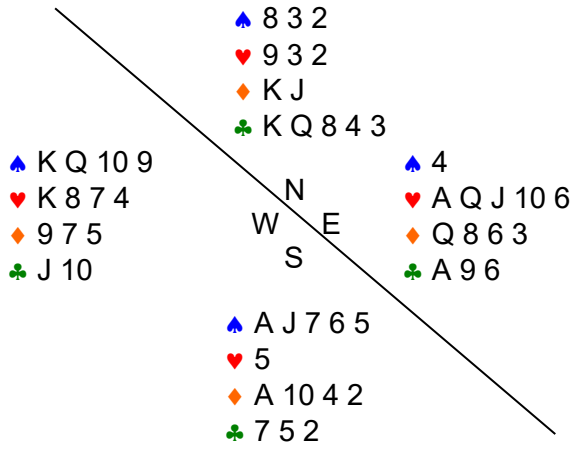
Ruling Report National Competition

Division : 3 D Date : 26 September 2026

Match : Riviera TL 5 – Smohain 1 Open/~~Closed~~ Room

Players: NS Arie Teeuw – Otto van Schravendijk (Riviera TL 5)
EW Jean de Villenfagne de Vogelsanck – Mercedes Steed (Smohain 1)

Board : 22 Dealer : E Vulnerability : EW



Bidding

West	North	East	South
		1 ♥	2 ♠ [A]
3 ♣ [A]	3 ♠	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♥	4 ♠	X	Pass
Pass	Pass		

2 ♠ = weak, 5+card ♠ and 4+card in any other suit

3 ♣ Explained by West to South as fit ♥ and 9-10 HCP
Not alerted by East

Playing

	W	N	E	S	W	N	E
1	♥ 4						
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							

Result and score :
4 ♠ X **-2** by S → 300 for EW (Smohain 1)

Result and score in the other room :
4 ♥ **-2** by E → 200 for NS (Smohain 1)

Balance : 500 or 11 IMP for Smohain 1

Result of the match with this board
IMP : 92 – 85

Result of the match without this board
IMP : 92 – 74

Remarks from team A (Riviera TL 5)

3 ♣ is alerted by West and explained, with reference to the convention card, 9-10 HCP with ♥ support. East did not alert.
North sacrifices because, in his view, South is short in ♣. With the right explanation North will not sacrifice. 4 ♥ does not make. Other table 4 ♥ - 2.
It is strange that East doubles 4 ♠. EW have established ♣ fit in East's opinion. Red against green 5 ♣ is far more logical than double.

Remarks from team B (Smohain 1)

East didn't alert, because I interpreted the 3 ♣ as a natural bid. In fact, the 3 ♣ couldn't be a Bergen, because there was not a jump.
Proof is that East bid 4 ♣, fitted with ♣ with a 3-card A x x.

Analysis

As there was a different explanation by West (Bergen Raises) and East (no alert = natural), we first need to find to out which explanation was correct.
According to the convention card EW play Bergen Raises after an 1 ♥/♠ opening, whereby 3 ♣ promises a fit with 9-10 HCP. Extensive research provided clear evidence that if the opponent on your right overcalls in a different suit, Bergen Raises are completely off. The reason is that you need the 3 ♣ and 3 ♦ bids for more urgent, natural, or forcing competitive meanings. Additionally, once an opponent enters the auction, the core defensive purpose of Bergen - pre-emptively jumping to the three-level to block the opponents before they can bid - loses its element of surprise.

From the above, it is clear that there was no reason whatsoever for East to alert (3 ♣ is a natural call) but that the partnership agreement was not correctly explained by West.

From North's point of view, when the partnership agreement has been explained correctly, the mistake being the call made and not the explanation, there is no infraction. Regardless of damage, the result stands (law 75 C).

From South's point of view, the situation is different. Although he got the correct description of the West hand, he did not receive the explanation in accordance with the partnership agreement and therefore there is an infraction at the SW side of the screen (Law 75.B.1).
If NS are damaged as a consequence of West's failure to provide disclosure of the meaning of a call, as required by the Laws, then NS are entitled to rectification through the award of an adjusted score (Law 40.B.3(a)).

With his 2 ♠ overcall, West completely described his hand. In this bidding sequence, West will always pass.

Decision

East was correct no to alert the 3 ♣ call as in this bidding sequence it is natural. West made a mistaken call. Therefore, there is no infraction at the NE side of the screen. At the SW side of the screen, the mistaken explanation by West is an infraction of Law 75.B.1. NS were not damaged as a consequence of this infraction and so they are not entitled to rectification through the award of an adjusted score.
The result on board 22 in the open room is maintained.

The result of the match Riviera TL 5 – Smohain 1 remains 92 – 85 in IMP or
11,47 – 8,53 in VP.

Both teams can file an appeal against this decision within 7 calendar days.
Please refer to the regulations for the treatment of an appeal, which can be consulted on the website of the RBBF.

Done at Ruisbroek (Puurs-Sint-Amands) on 30 September 2026

Robert Ketels
Tournament Director for the national competition