

## **Observer report for 4th Mah Jong Open Graz Bamboo tournament**

**Observer:** Anton Kösters

**Date:** 20/21 March 2010

**Place:** Graz, Austria

### **Website or other source(s) of information:**

Tournament was announced via E-mail and EMA website. Sorry to say that the website of the Austrian Mahjong Association is hardly updated anymore, so it was difficult to follow how many players would be attending.

**Participants:** 28 players, most Austrian, 3 Hungarians and an odd Dutch and Georgian player. A novelty (the Georgian player, at least). By the way, I think she should get an EMA-number, Georgia is part of Europe. I don't expect issues with Russia for this.

**Playing schedule:** 6 rounds of 2 hours, the last one as a final for all players. 4 on Saturday, 2 on Sunday, closing around 14.30.

**Location:** Excellent hotel some 30 km out of Graz with good facilities for a tournament, good food, sauna and swimming pool.

**Equipment:** OK. Still the old OEMC 2005 Nijmegen sets. Apparently the post tournament sales of used set at the OEMC 2009 in Baden was a success.

**Refereeing:** No referee, no issues either. Although there could have been issues at my table, the usual pung-oh-kong-stuff. Nothing serious.

**Complaints:** None.

### **Information / communication during the tournament:**

Very visible clock projected from the computer screen on the wall.

A very young Tschinkel did all the data input, so standings were available before the next round.

**Sessions:** -

**Catering:** Should mention Roswitha's and Grete's cakes here (Stayerische Mehlspeisen). Coffee during the breaks and water during sessions. The excellent kitchen in the hotel took care of the rest.

**Prices:** All prices from (or related to) Bamboo, so Full Flush. Apart from prices for 1,2 and 3 also prices for round winners and best sponsors each round.

**Conclusion:** Venue was excellent. Timing on calendar is too. Could maybe attract more foreign players with more publicity.