

Observer report for Spanish Open 2010

Observer: Anton Kösters

Date: April 17/18, 2010

Place: Murcia

Website or other source(s) of information: OK. An example for all organizers.

Participants: 36 . Spanish, French and Dutch. Originally 48 had subscribed, but a few late cancellations and the closing of the airspace as a result of volcanic ashes made the total number of player drop to 36. 2 Spanish players voluntarily stepped back to come again to a multiple of 4. All this reshuffling caused some changes in the team line-up too.

Playing schedule: 6 rounds of 2 hours. 4 on Saturday, 2 on Sunday. Last round as final round with best ranked players at one table.

Location: A tent near a busy crossroads in the centre of the city, facilities in the adjacent Cultural Centre, hotel opposite the playing location. The only thing that really disturbed me were the church bells at 20m from the tent.

Equipment: OK.

Refereeing: Carlos was an excellent referee. There was an issue however before the tournament about a correct point value of a self-drawn Seven Pairs hand. Apparently an earlier e-mail on this subject has caused some misunderstanding if you should count 4 points for Fully Concealed in such a (or similar) case or 1 for Self Drawn. I do not know how it worked out at the tables because nobody made such a hand at my tables.

Complaints: None whatsoever.

Information / communication during the tournament: Excellent.

Sessions: The numbers 1, 2 and 3 were in fact the winners of the first, second and third table of the final round. Apparently, the differences in the ranking after the 5th round were so small that even number 9 could jump to number 3, much to the disappointment of the higher ranked players after round 5. The table setting in the final round was a decisive element for the tournament result. We may need to evaluate this 'final round'-system.

Catering: Outstanding. Special mention of the 2 dinners we had on Friday and Saturday evening. For a master class in fundraising I would suggest Carlos to be the teacher.

Prices: Hey! I have one in my bag right now! Medals and trophies for numbers 1,2 and 3 and the best Spanish player. Special price for the best team.

Conclusion: Better come and see it yourself next year!