

Observer report for French Open 2010

Observer: Robert Rijnders

Date: April 24 & 25, 2010

Place: Paris

Website or other source(s) of information: highly informative website dedicated to the tournament – only at a certain stage the participants (registered players) info in English was different from the (correct) French pages, which caused some confusion.

Participants: 108

Playing schedule: social playing during the days preceding the tournament – welcoming ceremony on Friday 7 rounds of 2 hours. 4 on Saturday, 3 on Sunday followed by the award ceremony. I left shortly after the last round finished (17:30), so no info on timetable afterwards (I expect that the organizers have bettered themselves and the wait has not been too long).

Location: the 9th district's city hall – great venue and surroundings.

Equipment: no problem was reported on the sets – they were not the same on all tables, but that's okay. The tables and (especially) the chairs are subject to criticism as in previous years, but given the size of the tournament, the organization can hardly be blamed for that and they make do with what they have.

Refereeing: Quentin Porcherot.

Quentin was too 'invasive' at times (i.e. checking the scores every 5 minutes or so), but this was reported and it was better afterwards. Although he did well, he did not seem to be too sure about himself, but I may have misinterpreted that. At any rate, there was only one issue concerning the timely calling of hu that needed a 'arbitrary board' ruling, because the player involved was appealing.

Complaints: None, other than mentioned under refereeing.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Intermediate results were available in a timely matter, clock + gong clearly visible and audible ☺

Sessions: -

Catering: Lunches and refreshments for the shorter breaks – quality good as usual and no shortage.

Prices: Paris is famous for its many prices – from the opening ceremony I understood that the award ceremony would probably take a long time again. There is no real objection to the numerous prices (some love them), but we could do with less i.m.h.o.

Conclusion: a pleasure to be in Paris again – it is not hard to understand why so many are willing to come (back) every year...