

Observer Report for German Riichi Open 2012 (Hannover)

Observer: Gemma Tamar Collinge

Date: 5th and 6th May 2012

Locations: Hannover, Germany

Website and Advance Information

Very good and complete. Emails sent before the day outlined all important items.

Participants

18 GER

4 NED

3 FRA

1 GBR

1 IRL

1 AUT

Playing Schedule

7 rounds of 1hr30mins (gong rung at 1hr15mins)

4 rounds on first day, 3 rounds on second day

Location

Stadtteilzentrum Nordstadt "Bürgerschule", Klaus-Müller-Kilian-Weg 2

Catering

Two course meal provided around the corner at Kaiser. Vegetarians also catered for. Tea and coffee available throughout along with sweet snacks. Bottled water provided in the hall. All other drinks had to be purchased by the player.

Equipment

No problems. Table size was appropriate. Tiles with a white backing (solid colour used throughout) made the White Dragon (haku) difficult to distinguish by some players.

A side table by each mahjong table made it easier for the scorer as they had a place for the score sheet.

Referee

Norbert Luckhardt

Questions Raised

One question raised about penalties regarding tiles revealed from the wall

Complaints

None received.

Information During Tournament

Projector displayed the time. Results were communicated effectively.

Gong was rung loud and accompanied by a verbal instruction.

Prizes

Certificate for all players. Mug and trophy for top three players. 'Booby' prize for last place.

Misc.

I understand that scoring software was used to generate the scoring sheets. The players starting wind was established with this software and proved to be effective in ensuring the start of tables was prompt and scoring sheets were clear with the names pre-printed. However, the score sheets that this software produced could be improved; it was not clear where sub-totals should be written etc. (especially compared to some of the more recent sheets some groups seem to be using).

The timing of the tournament meant that people could come up on the Saturday morning and leave on the Sunday evening. I thought that this was a good move and widened participation of those with full-time jobs and family commitments.

Conclusion

Atmosphere was excellent and there were no conflicts or complaints. Excellent.