

Observer report for: 2012 POMC

Observer: Janco Onnink

Date: 2 and 3 June 2012

Place: Porto

Website or other source(s) of information:

http://www.uniaodemahjong.com/pomc2012/inscriçao_en.html

Participants:

Country	number of players
Netherlands	7
France	7
Spain	4
Portugal	4
Russia	2
Austria	2
Hungary	2
Total	28

Playing schedule: 6 rounds of 90 minutes (4 on Saturday, 2 on Sunday)

Equipment:

Good tile sets and tables also fine

Referee: not arranged and not announced (Désirée filled in later, see separate explanation on taking tile issue).

Complaints:

- One of the registered players (Eugenia Netrebina) didn't play because she preferred to go to the beach. Organisation had to get another substitute player.
- see explanation about taking tile issue

Information / communication during the tournament:

Results on paper after every round (on beamer)

Digital time display on beamer

Sessions:

6 sessions

Catering:

- Lunch on Saturday included
- Diner on Saturday include
- Free drinks, cookies and bread during whole tournament

Prices:

- Prices for nr 1,2,3 and price
- Price for special hand
- Price for last place
- Price for Iberia cup (For best player of the two tournaments)

- Bag with souvenirs for all players
- Certificate for each player

Conclusion:

- First tournament in Portugal. It's amazing how much effort Rui did to make everybody feel comfortable. All players liked the tournament very much and like to come again to Portugal.
- Difference in strength of players was (too) big, EMA should look at requirements for MERS-2 tournaments

Well organised tournament.

Tile-taking issue

In round 4 there was an issue about how to act when a player forget to take the winning tile to his hand.

Description by Desirée Heemskerck:

Situation: E, G, J and C played together. G had mahjong with E's discard and forgot to take his tile. E said it is a dead hand and the round should go on. There is some discussion between the four players. G (relatively new player), says okay I agree because he doesn't know rules in these situation. E is really upset. His irritation is heard by everyone in the room.

Afterwards C, G and J told Desirée and Joël that the atmosphere was tense because of the way E acted. We told them the rule is (like Joël found on the EMA website): the mahjong counts and the player gets a penalty of minus 10 minipoints. This would make a big difference at the end because 1, 2, 3 were very close. (E became 1 with 53, C 2 with 41 and J 3 with 39, scores can differ a little).

Because E got upset the others agreed to give G a dead hand.

We also spoke to E. He said he called a referee but nobody answered (non of the other players on the table or at other tables heard that!). He and Alexander also said the minus 10 rule is not actual, was only counting on the WMC.

I also asked E not to get upset the way he did because that intimidates other players. He recognized it and will give it a try.

There was no referee, asked and announced.

EMA answer afterwards: What Desirée and Joël said is correct: valid hand, 10 points deducted. A tournament should always have a referee. For a small tournament MERS 1 it can be a player, but it is important that all players know who they can call. In this situation a referee should have been at the table to sort things out.

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May be EMA should think about a checklist for Observers, so this problems can be avoided in future.

Note on filling in the observer report: be brief and to the point. If there are no details or issues worth mentioning, just state 'No shortcomings' or something similar. Send the report to presidium@mahjong-europe.org – it will be published under the tournament details.