



Observer's Report for World Riichi Championships Qualification 2014 (WRCQ2014, RCR, MERS 1)

Observer: Dominik KOLENDA

Date: 2nd March 2014

Place: Warsaw, Poland

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the tournament website www.turnieje.mahjong.waw.pl: registration, programme, list of participants; 3 languages (Polish, English, Japanese).

Participants: 16 players (including 1 substitute player)

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Playing schedule: 1 day, 4 rounds of 90 minutes

Location: Faculty of Chemistry of Warsaw University, Pasteura st. 1, Warsaw. The venue was big enough to host tournament for 40-44 people. Enough space between tables. There were 2 toilets at the same floor and more on the others. Easy communication from city center and railway station. Many restaurants in the neighbourhood.

Equipment: All mahjong sets and 3 out of 4 playing mats were high quality products imported from Japan. The 4th mahjong mat was a comfortable handmade table top. Tables size was fitting perfectly to size of mats.

Refereeing: There was no non-playing referee, but there were 3 of them (Dominik Kolenda, Jakub Tomaszewski, Szymon Lasota), so there was no problem in solving any problems. Unfortunately there was one misjudgement: player who revealed 1 tile from the opponent's hand didn't get dead hand as well as any other penalty.

Complaints: None.

Information / communication during the tournament:

There was no projector but visible clock on a computer screen. No gong information at 15 minutes before end of hanchan. Ranking up to date after 2nd hanchan (computer screen).

Sessions: Friendly playing atmosphere. Sometimes it was too noisy.

Catering: Lunch not included in the tournament fee. Several restaurants nearby of playing venue. Organisers provided bottle of water (750ml) and one snack for every player. Lunch break time was sufficient.

Prizes: Medals and in-kind prizes (board games, Japanese handmade pottery, small Japanese gadgets, etc.) for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place. Booby prize, a towel for tears wiping, for the last place. Winner of the tournament became one of the three representatives for the World Riichi Championships. The representative of Poland will get partial refunding of the costs connected with the Championships. The total amount of in-kind prizes value is more than 200€ + circa 200-350€ funds for the representative.

Other issues: There was one substitute player playing from the beginning of the tournament. He was appointed few days before. Unfortunately one player didn't show off. Organisers didn't have any additional substitute players. In the end, with the help of participants, one substitute player played for the 1st hanchan, and after that organisers found another substitute player, who could play till the end of the tournament. Because of that there was 30-45 minutes delay.

Conclusion: Not many players, but very friendly atmosphere, and well organised.