



**Observer report for Swedish Open Riichi Mahjong Championship 2014
(RCR, MERS 2)**

Observer: Konsta Lensu

Date: March 29th -30th 2014

Place: Linköping, Sweden

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website http://irma.studorg.liu.se/?page_id=228 . Information about tournament, accommodation, transportation, participants. Fast response to any emails.

Participants: 35+1 players

Represented countries:

Sweden 21+1, Finland 5, Denmark 4, Slovakia 3, Germany 1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 7 rounds (4+3) of 90 minutes (75 minute gong with 15 minutes allocated for finishing the game). Basic breaks 15 minutes, Lunch 45 minutes.

Location: Linköping University, Building C, room S41. The location was easily reached by public transport from Linköping. The playing room comfortably fit all 9 tables. Separate break room attached to the playing room, and a nearby hall served as the lunch room. Very large amount of toilets near the rooms.

Equipment: Good square tables and uniform standard Japanese sets. All tables used a

home-made mat with hard edges; most worked well but the one at table 6 was unstable.

Seating scheme: Tables were randomised before the tournament, with seats predetermined. In the beginning of the tournament, each player drew a random tile to determine their number.

Refereeing: One non-playing head referee, who was enough. The referee was not aware of the controversial “riichi, then dead hand = chombo?” rulings, but presence of two 2013 Bad Vöslau seminar participants helped solve the issue fast.

Complaints: None, although I wasn't clearly designated as the person to complain to.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. A gong was used to inform players of the start and the end of sessions. Full table arrangements on both individual sheets and on the wall. Ranking up to date between each session, showed on projector screen, sometimes only very briefly during the short breaks.

Sessions: Friendly playing atmosphere. Sometimes got noisy, but referee was able to quiet the room.

Catering: Two lunches and dinner available with an extra fee, with a vegetarian option. First day had large meals, while the second day had lighter sandwiches. The break room selection was rather lacking, with only tea, coffee, water and some cookies. Some candy and drink bottles were for sale.

Prizes: Trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Conclusion: A well organised tournament that ran on time. Venue was exceptionally good.