



## Observer report for tournament “Only Lyon Part 1” (MCR, MERS 2)

**Observer:** Sylvie VALOGNES

**Date:** 29 – 30 November 2014

**Place:** Lyon, France

**Website or other source(s) of information:** All information on the website of the Mahjong Club du Rhône (MCR) : general information, registration, list of participants, map ...  
[http://www.mahjongclubdurhone.fr/mcr\\_onlylyon.php#info](http://www.mahjongclubdurhone.fr/mcr_onlylyon.php#info)

**Participants:** 52 players

Represented countries:

FRA	ITA	SWI			
38	12	2			

**Playing schedule:** 2 days, 6 rounds (3+3) of 120 minutes each.

**Location:** Brotteaux Bridge Club, 49 boulevard des Brotteaux 69006 LYON. Near the SNCF train station (5mn) and near a metro station (5mn). Easy to find.

The playing room was divided in different smaller parts; it lacked maybe a little of space between the tables.

### **Equipment:**

We played with unmarked tiles and very functionally bordered tables. All games and tables were very likely and very suitable. A gong signaled clearly the start and the end of each session. The time was projected on many screens. The East direction was clearly identifiable.

### **Refereeing / Information / communication during the tournament:**

Sven-Hendrik GUTSCHE was the non-player (EMA certified) referee. Part of his job was the traditional management of conflicts between players and the recall of the regulations.

No referee case (problem) was brought to my attention.

The second part of his job was to deal with the results. For the very first time in Europe, we have experienced a new process of taking the scores. The scores were written by the players on the score

sheets, and then the scores were directly registered (and verified) by notebooks and i-pads and sent by a new application on Internet. The first consequence of this system was the reduction of the errors (The referee announced for the first day “46% of erroneous score sheets”) made by the score takers during the sessions on the score sheets.

The other advantage: it made possible first to see the results of the all tables “moving in live” during the sessions and second to be shown at the same time to interested people on Internet.

At the end of each session, the results need only a few little minutes to be visible to everybody on the screens in the playing room, but also on the i-pads and smartphones of persons who like Mah-Jong everywhere in the world.

For this experiment, Eric Desbenoit was the “referee assistant” responsible of the application and of the results on computer. And there were 4 or 5 assistants to help Sven and Eric in the registering and the correction of the results.

This new process provoked some resistance from a few players (score takers!) who felt that the referee and his assistants were too present, but the majority of the payers enjoyed the rapidity, the transparency and the reliability of the scores. Some players were analyzing right away from the Saturday evening their personal statistics to improve them the day after!

Maybe the small size of the playing room did not help: in fact the assistants had to slalom between the tables to reach the score sheets. A larger room would be better the next time! In final, all the players accepted the corrections made on the score sheets by the referee and all the players accepted to sign these verified score sheets.

During the 2 days, the communication about this new system of scoring and about the results themselves was given to the players in both languages, French and Italian.

### **Complaints:**

No complaints received.

### **Sessions:**

The playing atmosphere was absolutely great: Friendly, chatty and colloquial with no lack of competitive spirit.

### **Catering:**

Breakfast and lunch of Sunday in the same place, drinks and others. Free water bottles. Good lunch the Sunday (sandwiches, cakes, yoghourts); free cookies, fruits, chocolate and candy bars during the 2 days of the tournament.

### **Prizes:**

3 different prizes for the individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd): A very special “Lion” sculpture was given to the 1st. Some regional “Lyon” specialties (vines, chocolates, and others) for the other winners. Among them prizes for the 4 members of the Best Team. One more prize for the best scoring in one game. The Referee, the computer referee and some persons who have helped organizing have been rewarded too.

### **Conclusion:**

A very well-organised tournament, in a very friendly atmosphere. And a very nice MCR-Team!