



Observer report for Paris Tournament 2014 (RCR, MERS 1)

Observer: Martin LESTER

Date: 13th - 14th December 2014

Place: Paris, France

Website or other source(s) of information: Information was hosted on the website of Magic Mahjong Social Pung, in French and English. This included registration, schedule, payment details, list of players and location. A reminder e-mail was sent a few days before the tournament including information about lunch.

Participants: 32 players

Represented countries: France 26; Great Britain 3; Japan 3

Playing schedule: 2 days, 7 rounds (4+3) of 90 minutes

Location: The tournament was held at the bridge club at 33 Rue Blanche in central Paris. This is easily accessible from the train station Gare du Nord via the Metro, making it a convenient location for international players arriving on Eurostar. There are many hotels within easy distance of the venue. The main room of the club comfortably holds 8 tables (and in the past has held more). There is also a side room for consuming drinks and snacks and an area for coats and bags.

Equipment: Most games were played on bridge tables covered with wooden squares with a carpeted surface, giving raised edges to the tables. A couple of Junk Mats were used. Most of the sets were typical Riichi style (small tiles with yellow backs). There were a few other sets, including a black set (small tiles with black front and back) and a typical MCR style set (large tiles with green backs).

Refereeing: Nicolas Campina was player referee.

Complaints: None.

Information / communication during the tournament: Visible clock on a monitor at one end of the room. A gong was used to notify players of the start and the end of sessions. Up-to-date rankings were shown on the monitor between sessions. Some of the breaks between sessions were shortened slightly; the organiser communicated this verbally to players.

Sessions: Pleasant but competitive playing atmosphere: FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun). One player pulled out after Saturday because of family matters, but the tournament organiser did not receive his message (which was sent by e-mail, but the organiser apparently asked to be told of problems by text/phone). Consequently, on Sunday morning, the start of play at one table was delayed by 30 minutes while a substitute player was found. However, the scheduled breaks between sessions were sufficiently long that the following session only had to be delayed slightly and there was no further disruption to the tournament.

Catering: A light breakfast of pastries, fruit and fruit juice was offered on both days. On Saturday, lunch was a Chinese-style takeaway box of meat/vegetables and rice/noodles. On Sunday, lunch was a choice of baguettes. Snacks and soft drinks were available during breaks.

Prizes: A coffee machine for 1st place; a gift voucher for 2nd place; a DVD box-set for 3rd place. Other small prizes also given, for example for best score on the second day and last place overall.

Conclusion: Another fun and well-organised Paris tournament in December. I hope to play there again next year!