



## **Observer report for Great Scholars 2016 (RCR, MERS 1)**

**Observer:** Daina CHIBA

**Date:** April 2, 2016

**Place:** Oxford, UK

**Website or other source(s) of information:** All information is available on the website of the tournament: <https://sites.google.com/site/greatscholarsmahjong/>: registration, program, list of participants. A minor issue is that the EMA website has an incorrect URL to this website on the Calendar page (there is an unnecessary space between “site/” and “greatscholarsmahjong”).

**Participants:** 20 players (UK: 17, China: 2, Italy: 1). All the participants currently live in the UK.

**Playing schedule:** 1 day (5 rounds of 90 minutes)

**Location:** Wolfson Building, University of Oxford. The room is large enough to host 20 players.

**Equipment:** Japanese tiles, Junk Mats, tables, and chairs were provided. Scores were kept by means of sticks, including additional green 500-point sticks. Every player was given a bottle of water and a badge showing their own schedule, whom to play with in each round, and their initial winds. It was ensured that everyone played against different opponents each time and everyone started as each wind at least once.

**Refereeing:** Martin Lester was non-player referee.

**Complaints:** None.

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

Visible digital clock was projected from a computer on a screen. A gong clearly informed players of the end of sessions. Ranking up to date, was projected on the screen between sessions. As this was one of the first tournaments where the revised EMA RCR was used, the organizer went over the key differences between the old and new rules before the tournament as a reminder.

**Sessions:** Very friendly atmosphere.

**Catering:** Lunch (pizza) was provided in the break room. There were also coffee, beer, wine, and refreshments in the break room.

**Prizes:** Trophies were given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, and there was a further prize for 4th place, a consolation prize for last place, and small prizes for all hands scoring over 16000 points, and for the player who happened to have both the highest and lowest hanchan scores.

**Conclusion:** It was a very well organized tournament.