



Observer report for Czech open 2017 (Riichi, MERS 2)

Observer: Markus KRUSE

Date: June 3rd – 4th 2017

Place: Prague, Czech Republic

Website or other source(s) of information: All information was published on the website of Czech Mahjong Association <http://www.ratka.cz/>: registration, program, list of participants, etc. After the tournament the scoring chart and several photos were published there as well.

Participants: 24 players

Represented Countries:

CZE	GER	RUS	SVK	POL	AUT	BIH	FRA	GBR
6	6	4	3	1	1	1	1	1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 13 rounds (7+6) of 90 minutes during a consecutive period of 24 hours

Location: “Klub deskových her Paluba” room is maxed out at 24 Players which was the Player limit and –attendance.

Equipment: We played with 5 mostly identical Riichi sets and one MCR Set (bigger and flatter pieces with numbers). The tables were somewhat heterogeneous and all except for one had Junkmats or edges. We played with point-sticks of which there were more than enough.

Refereeing: Radka Pernicova and Daina Chiba were player-referees.

Complaints: For noise dampening reasons the windows in the playing room had to stay closed during the hours from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. This caused the room to get a little stuffy for those rounds (the windows were opened during the breaks).

Both bathrooms had issues with the locks, which we were told from the start. To my knowledge this caused no problems at any point.

Information / communication during the tournament:

There was a visible clock on a computer. The start of the round was clearly declared. A gong informed players of the 75 minute mark. Ranking between rounds was intentionally withheld. Until the end of the tournament, the only information that was given out was the “Midnight Winner” (leader at the half-way point).

Sessions: Overall excellent playing atmosphere, towards the end some people were understandably exhausted. FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun).

Catering: There was no Lunch, dinner or breakfast scheduled, as the Website and a reminder E-Mail to the participants stated. There were several fast-food places very close by, so getting something to eat was not an issue and was more than balanced out by the low registration fee. Water, Coffee, Tea and Energy Drinks were provided free of charge. Even some Mahjong-themed sweets were distributed. There were frequently restocked snacks and fruits available throughout the whole tournament.

Prizes: Trophies, Certificates and Souvenirs for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), and free admission to the next tournament for the last non-Czech player.

Conclusion: As the first (and according to the Organizers probably last) European 24-hour Mahjong tournament that I ever heard of, it had some possibly unforeseen difficulties (e.g. noise during the night hours). But every participant knew of the format before registration and I firmly believe everyone had fun and no one regrets attending in the slightest bit.

The component of physical exhaustion added a marathon-like feel to the tournament and it was a testament to the spirit of the attending players that no one used the offered sleeping couch.