



## **Observer report for Spanish Open Mahjong Championship 2017 - MCR, MERS 2**

**Observer:** Rui Machado

**Date and Place:** 23 & 24 of September of 2017, Madrid, Spain

**Website or other source(s) of information:** All information on the website of Mahjong Madrid, registration, program, list of participants, map of the place, and a live ranking:

<http://www.mahjongmadrid.com/9thsomcliveranking/>

**Participants:** 72 players from 10 countries (3 MERS from 1<sup>st</sup> of January of 2018).

**Playing schedule:** 2 days, 6 rounds (4+2) of 120 minutes

**Location:** The playing room in the Eurobridge Club was at the -1 floor. It was large enough to host 72 players and leave enough space between them. The chairs were very comfortable and the lights were very well placed so the tiles were very well lit.

**Equipment:** We played with different, good game sets and tables.

**Refereeing:** Samuel Tunez Heredia was the non-player referee, Alberto Rossi was the second referee player just in case (he helped Samuel once in a 20 minutes break for a very important issue commented at the bottom of the report) and a staff member helped Samuel and players to check score sheets.

**Complaints:** The gong did not sound exactly at 2 hours in one of the sessions and sounded at around 2 hours and 10 seconds. Fortunately no hu was declared in this 10 seconds interval.

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

One clock projected from a computer on a visible TV for all parts of the playing room. A gong clearly informs players of the start and the end of sessions, 15 minutes left announced. Individual and team ranking up to date between each session projected on screen from a computer.

**Sessions:** Excellent playing atmosphere, FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun).

**Catering:** Breakfast, breaks and lunch were in the same place, bottled water in playing room. Spanish tapas, Asian, vegetarian food – everything was very tasty.

**Prizes:** Nice prizes for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), one for the best team, one consolation prize for the last player, another prize for the best hand and a unique prize for a chicken hand competition.

**Conclusion:** Very well organized tournament in Madrid.

**An extra issue written by Antonio Ayllon, President of Mahjong Madrid Association and checked by the observer Rui Machado:**

Mahjong Madrid Association implemented a new program system for the tournament. Ernesto Vega de la Iglesia, a member of the association, designed a program for Windows to make it easier for the organizers and for the staff to carry out a tournament. The program does the following things:

- Organize with a random algorithm the tables and the seats for each player. The inputs are the number of players and the number of sessions in a tournament.
- After this, you can introduce the score sheets of one table with two methods:
  1. Introducing only the table points and the score points, that is to say, 8 parameters for each table like always.
  2. Or introducing hand by hand the winner, the looser and winning points, that is to say, 48 parameters ( 16 hands \* 3 ) for each table and the program calculates the rest.

Mahjong Madrid's staff made a great effort to introduce the both methods and detected from the 108 score sheets (18 tables \* 6 sessions) that more than 20 were badly calculated due to simple human calculation errors. After the second session, during lunch, the staff detected this errors and they were correcting the minor calculated mini points without influencing the table points. All players at this point were informed to please check the data of the left part of the score sheet (winner player, looser player and winning points) because we were going to give preference to this so that the program system would correct the minor errors. Everybody agreed and no complaints were giving at this moment. Everything was going well until the 3<sup>rd</sup> session, where the table points were going to get changed due to bad calculation errors so the organization informed the players and gathered the referees to debate about how to proceed in this situation. Samuel, the head referee non-player, Alberto Rossi, the second referee player, and with the help of Marco Montebelli due to his experience and referee title and me, Antonio Ayllon talked for around 15 minutes and made the decision to not to change anything because:

1. people already signed the scoresheet
2. the staff detected the error too late, after the 4<sup>th</sup> session
3. the program system is optional

The debate was very nice and smooth and the four of us agreed that the system is a good implementation to correct the bad calculations made by one of the players in the table who is in charge of writing down the scores in the game, but if everybody signs the scoresheet it should not be modified, so the organization did not change absolutely any scoresheet signed by everybody.

Conclusion:

So from this experience, Mahjong Madrid would like to advice to all players to check the scoresheet after finishing a match before signing it, either by using your brain, using a calculator or using a program system offered by the tournament organization, so that the bad calculations can be fixed before the sign. We also would like to open a debate for the EMA, the different Associations and Federations to think about if this proceed is correct with three questions:

- Can the organization check, inform the players and correct a scoresheet where there is an error in the calculations?
- If so, how much time does the organization have to change an unsigned scoresheet?
- And if so, is the left part of the scoresheet (winner player, looser player and winning points) going to have preference over the calculation of a hand?

We think everybody will agree that technology will influence and change the way tournaments will be held in the future and because of this we should clarify in the greenbook this new issue about how to proceed with the signing of a scoresheet and if whether the organization can change the scoresheets or not.