



Observer report for Italian Open 2017 (Riichi, MERS 2)

Observer: Paola Bungaro







Date: October 14th – 15th 2017

Place: Bologna, Italy

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website of Federazione Italiana Mahjong: registration, program, links to rules, location, list of participants.

Participants: 32 players

Represented countries

ITA	GBR	FRA	RUS	GER	ESP
					
20	5	3	2	1	1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 rounds (5+3) of 90 minutes

Location: Best Western Hotel in Bologna. Room with enough space for the tables and plenty of light. The facilities were spotlessly clean and the hotel staff very helpful during the breaks. It was really relaxing to be able to stay in the same place where the tournament was held!

Equipment: Fairly uniform sets and mats.

Refereeing: Aleksei Shpilman as player referee, Alberto Rosi as non-player referee.

Complaints: None!

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. Players were alerted to the start and the end of sessions (initially verbally, then a gong was added). Ranking up to date between each session, projected on the wall.

Sessions: Excellent playing atmosphere, FFF (Fast, Friendly and Fun). It was great to see a lot of new Riichi players, and hope to see them in more tournaments!

Catering: Lunch at the hotel, with a great selection of finger food and desserts. Also lots of pastries, cakes and snacks during each break. Tea, coffee, water and fruit juice available at lunch and at all breaks.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd) and for the best Italian player.

Conclusion: Very nice tournament in Bologna, with a lot of new Riichi players, convenient location, good food, friendly atmosphere. Hopefully the first of a long series of Italian Riichi Open tournaments!