



Observer report for Great Scholars Riichi Mahjong Tournament, Oxford 2018 (RCR, MERS 1)

Observer: Elmira MUSTAKIMOVA

Date: March 17th 2018

Place: Oxford, UK

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website of Great Scholars Riichi Mahjong Tournament <https://sites.google.com/site/greatscholarsmahjong/>: registration, schedule, list of participants, venue information, contact information. Details about practical arrangements were sent via email to all participants 10 days before the event.

Participants: 32 players

Represented countries:

 POL	 RUS	 GBR	 ITA	 SUI	South Korea
1	2	26	1	1	1

Playing schedule: 1 day, 5 rounds of 90 minutes

Location: The tournament was held at the Department of Computer Science at Oxford University. We used the basement rooms: the hall with tables and sofas for breaks and lunch, and a classroom for games. Both rooms were large enough to host all players and leave enough space between them. However, the basement room had no mobile phone reception, and only landline numbers could be used to reach the organizers or participants during the event.

Equipment: We played with game sets of good quality provided by organizers.

Refereeing: Martin Lester was non-player referee.

Complaints: None.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. The referee informs players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date between each session, projected from a computer on a screen.

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

Catering:

Format: self-service buffet.

Coffee, tea, lemonade and soft drinks with cookies and fruits were available during all breaks.

Lunch was served in the same place: very good quality Chinese/Asian food (rice, noodles and stir-fries, chicken and beef) with beer, wine or soft drinks supplied by a local restaurant. Wonderful desserts (cakes, pies, custard) were brought by organizers. Each player was given a bottle of still water before the tournament.

Prizes: Trophies and small prizes for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), small consolation prize for last ranking player, also small prizes for highest\lowest score after a hanchan. Small prizes included sweets, card mahjong sets, chopsticks sets.

Conclusion: Very nice tournament in Oxford, very well organized. Cosy place, good food, cheerful and friendly atmosphere.