



**Observer report for UK Riichi Open 2018 - RCR, MERS 3
(Days = 2 + Countries=0.5+Players=0.5+Extra=0)**

Observer: Luc HUMBERT

Date: August 4th – 5th 2018

Place: Godalming, Great Britain

Website or other source(s) of information: All information were available on a dedicated website : <http://ukrc2018.com> (registration, program, list of participants, etc.)

Participants: 68 players

Represented countries

GBR	FRA	SUI	GER	NED	POL	RUS	ESP	AUT
44	8	4	4	3	2	1	1	1

Equipment: We played with good game sets and playing mats. The venue is equipped with air-con, which was mostly appreciated during a such hot summer.

Refereeing: John Duckworth was non-player referee.

Complaints: Some players complained about the fact we used score sheet instead of scoring sticks, about the fact the tables and seats of players were pre-assigned, and that the table numbers en seats were not mentioned on the “Individual sheet” every players received.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. A gong clearly informs players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date between each session, was projected in the playing room and in the lounge.

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

Catering: Lunch was held in the room next to the playing room, with two menus and deserts.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), and one more for the british champion.

Particular issue :

The organizers encountered an unprecedented situation. In early June, they had 70 players registered, including more than 20 from continental Europe, entered and having paid their entrance fees. At the start of June, they began to get cancellations from Europe with the requests to return entry fees. At the beginning, it looked like some players had changed their mind, but the UKMA noticed three cancellations from Netherland with the same wording. They received at least 5 cancellations from Holland that specifically referred to "unwillingness to play" with one or more of the tournaments entrants. The UKMA wrote a letter to the Dutch Mahjong Association about this issue and received an answer on August the 1st.

The situation was mostly unsatisfactory for the UKMA because they were unclear as to how many players they should expect for Europe, and they were put to much inconvenience in seeking replacements and changing documentation. The late timing also had the effect of the UKMA Association having to refuse entry to some would-be players (they eventually opted for 68 players), and to duplicate work on movements at short notice. They were also saddened not to see as many of their friends from other countries as they had expected and hoped.

Conclusion: Very nice tournament in Godalming, very well organized with a very good staff. Sad to see that many players cancelled their registration at the last minute, causing problems to the organizers, with the only reason they were afraid to play with one person.