

Observer report for 1st Riichi Mahjong Madrid Championship 2019 (MERS 3)

Observer: Cédric Aguerre

Date: April 19th – 21st 2019

Place: Madrid, Spain

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website of Mahjong Madrid (venue, registration, program, list of participants) + communication by email with registered players

Participants: 16 players

Represented countries: Spain (8), France (6), Germany (1), Switzerland (1)

Playing schedule: 3 days, 14 hanchans

Due to characteristics of this tournament with 16 players and 14 rounds, Mahjong Madrid decided to divide the tournament in two parts:

1.) Day 1. On Friday we played a standard random 5 hanchans tournament, so each player played with everybody.

2.) Day 2 and 3. On Saturday and Sunday, we started with the swiss system seating tournament (players are placed in the order of the ranking). The swiss system was applied from the 6th session to the 13th session.

* Before the last session, the seats were blocked for the last session. So this means that in the session 14th, players did not move up or down a table even if they had more or less points than other players.

Location: The tournament was held in "Liceum - Mind Gym".

Equipment: We played with Riichi tiles, junkmats and tenbos.

Refereeing: Joël Ratsimandresy was player referee.

Complaints: None.

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, printed and posted on walls.

Sessions: Excellent playing atmosphere. A substitute player was present during the whole tournament and helped the organizers.

Catering: Free drinks (water, soda, juices, coffee). Some pastries proposed for breakfasts and breaks. Lunches in restaurants a few meters from the playing room.

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

Conclusion: Nice tournament in Madrid, with a very friendly welcome. It deserves to have more participants in future editions.