



Observer report for the 6th Prague Ryuu Iisou Tournament (RERS 2+); 23th of July 2019

Observer: Manuel Schlich

Date: 20th – 21th of July 2019

Place: “Hotel Mars” at Kubánské náměstí 1333/6, 101 00 Praha 10-Vršovice, Czech Republic

Website or other source(s) of information: Location with a hint on how to get there fasted via public transport, registered participants, an agenda of the tournament and intermediate as well as the final point results were displayed at <https://prague-riichi-ryuu-iisou.webnode.cz/>

Participants: 28 players representing 9 countries

DEU	POL	SVK	CZE	AUT	FRA	NLD	RUS	ESP
								
8	4	3	4	1	2	3	2	1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 hanchan (4+4) of 90 minutes each

Location: A multi-usage room in the hotel had been used. The location was very good to reach with public transport. The option to stay at the same hotel was also given. The room itself was big enough and could have hosted easily the double of the amount of players. Toilets were directly adjacent to the playing area. Wooden tables with wooden chairs had been used.

Equipment: The tables were equipped with junk-mats and standard mah-jong sets with yellow-ocre backs. All sets were in a good shape and could be used without any issues. The room was cooled a little by an electric fan but it hasn't been too hot overall but maybe a bit stuffy.

Refereeing: Martin Diviš (Czech republic; organizer) was a non-playing ema-certified referee, Marcus Völker (Germany) functioned as playing referee, also EMA-certified. Refereeing was done in a good balance between active and passive. Matters that occurred were solved in a quick way.

Complaints:

Only a very few complaints were made:

- The EMA-observer and 2nd referee were announced at the spot, this should be done a little bit in advance (what I got from conversations, that it actually had been one beforehand but people forgot)
- Toilets were not enough (at least for the men) so that there was a little cue in front of it.
- The at the end of the tournament where packed while some tables were still playing which resulted in a little bit of noise.

- At one point, there was a short moment where no referee was in the room with some players still playing.
- Some people were confused how to fill on the scoring sheet as for the net-scores (actual amount of points -30.0) was declared as bonus. As a help and suggestion for next time, one could use a sheet that is worded like this:

Points
Points - 30.0
Loan
Subtotal
Uma
Chombo
Total
Signature

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. A spoken announcement clearly informed players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date between each session were also projected on the wall and updated at the webpage.

Sessions:

Some players were inexperienced at tournaments but most of them did put some good effort in their game so that the overall session were great fun and competitive in nature. So there was overall FFF (**F**air, **F**riendly and **F**un) but there is definitely some room to improve for certain players if they want to proceed.

Catering:

In the short breaks between the hanchan, different beverages from sirups, sweet drinks, water and tea were available. For a small price, people could also buy some cold drinks at the hotel's reception. As snacks, one could choose between poppy seed Závín strudel and the ones with some sort of cinnamon filling as well as some fruits and fresh cucumbers.

Lunch was provided after two hanchan at a restaurant in a 5 min walking distance. Participants were asked in advance by Martin via e-mail what they would like to be served in the two days. The menu was comprised of e.g. traditional bohemian cuisine like vepřo-knedlo-zelo (pork roast with dumplings and Sauerkraut), Italian pasta and fried cheese with French fries as a vegetarian dish. One drink was included during the lunch. The lunch was good quality and very tasty as a subjective point of view from my side.

Prizes:

There were handmade wooden boards, that felt like professionally painted with different shades of green for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. As they were provided with a chain, one can hang it on the wall which is a very nice idea aside from the standard trophies one usually receives. There were also goodie bags given out for the afore mentioned places with a step counter, USB stick, writing materials, a cap and a carrying bag. Additionally to this, small gifts were given out for the highest points scored in one hanchan, a gift for the Suu Ankou yakuman Rene Khezam (The Netherlands) scored and a free participation voucher for the next Prague tournament to the last placed player.

Conclusion:

Very pleasant tournament in Prague. It was well organised and no major issues could be observed during the tournament. I would strongly recommend fellow players from the European countries to participate. It's not only due to the great atmosphere but also the historical city that is always worth a visit.