



**Observer report for the Oranda Saikou (eng.: *Netherlands best, MERS 1*), 24th of August 2019**



**Observer:** Manuel Schlich

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2019

**Place:** Sportcentrum Berghem, Osseweg 38A, 5153 AE Berghem, The Netherlands

**Website or other source(s) of information:** Website [anpai.nl](http://anpai.nl) provided all the necessary information about the location, the tournament fee and time schedule.

**Participants:** 32 players representing two countries

NLD 	DEU 
29	3

**Playing schedule:** 1 day, 5 hanchan of 90 minutes each

**Location:** A multi-usage room at the Sportcentrum. The location was very good to reach with by car with more than enough parking spaces in front of the building. The room itself was big enough and could have hosted easily two more tables. 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. It was not too hot these days so the playing area had a nice climate.

**Refereeing:** Ans Hoogland served as the playing ema-certified referee. She was called twice during the whole tournament

**Complaints:** none

**Information / communication during the tournament:**

A well visible digital clock was prepared. A spoken announcement clearly informed players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date between each session has been printed out and placed into the waiting area

**Sessions:**

All the sessions went quite smooth. The players I played with were quite good and could keep up with a reasonable pace. There were one or two players who behaved a little odd at the table but the overall atmosphere was really FFF (**F**air, **F**riendly and **F**un).

**Catering:**

At the registration, one coffee or tea was included in the registration fee, other drinks had to be bought on one's own. In the short breaks between the hanchan, typical Dutch snacks like bitterballen, kaas soufflé and kroket were served besides some sweets. The lunch break after the second hanchan provided us with a hot chicken stock broth, several sorts of bread rolls with ham, cheese, salami and different vegetables like tomatoes and cucumbers as toppings. As beverages, one could choose between buttermilk and orange juice.

**Prizes:**

There were glass trophies for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places. Winner of the tournament was Désirée Heemskerk, runnerup was Martijn Gulmans and the third place went to Janny van der Meer in an all-Dutch podium. A gift received by the EMA-observer was a big bottle of good Belgium beer (this has by no means influence on this report \*hick\*), the referee was released from her duty with a nice bouquet of flowers.

**Conclusion:**

Very pleasant tournament in Berghem. It was well organised, this also goes back on the long history and experience of the organizers, and no major issues could be observed during the tournament.