



Observer report for The G-Research 2019 London Riichi Open (RCR, MERS 2+)

Observer: Rene Khezam

Date: December 7th 2019 – December 8th 2019

Place: London, England

Website or other source(s) of information: <https://www.gresearch.co.uk/mahjongtournament/>

Participants: 48 players

Represented Countries

GBR	GER	ITA	ESP	FRA	SWE	NED	CHI	POL	USA	AUT	ROU	EST	UKR
24	2	2	1	3	1	3	1	1	5	1	2	1	1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 rounds (5+3) of 75 minutes

Location: G-Research Central London Headquarters. Very easy to access from the Goodge Street or Tottenham Court Road underground stations. The venue was spacious and the playing area was clearly separated from the recreational area. Everything was clean and the bathrooms were sanitary. There were enough stalls so that no one had to wait in line or be rushed.

Equipment: We played with standard junkmats and sets on sturdy clean tables.

Refereeing: Referees were Gemma Sakamoto (head referee) and Max Bowsher, both non playing referees.

Complaints: None.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Clearly visible timer projected on multiple screens visible from every angle during each hanchan. Up to date ranking after every hanchan in a simple clean format. A gong was used to clearly announce the beginning and end of each hanchan. On the second day, attendance was taken which was a nice touch.

Sessions: Incredible playing atmosphere, high level of play and respect from every participant, FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun), very few disturbances that were handled appropriately in a timely manner.

Catering: Breakfast and lunch were provided at the venue and dinner was organised separately after the end of each day. Breakfast was served in the morning before the start of the first hanchan of the day. It consisted of various pastries and fruit. Lunch was served as an open buffet that had various options including vegetarian dishes and dessert. It was very tasty and there was plenty on both days. Snacks and fruit were also available at any point throughout the day. A large variety of refreshments were at the participants' disposal completely free of charge. Three types of cake were served on the 2nd day (also including a vegan option) to celebrate the tournament.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd) and a WRC 2020 ticket was awarded to the winner of the tournament. The winner was Anastasiia Veremenko from Ukraine. Congratulations to her, again!

Conclusion: Overall, amazing tournament! Not a single person had any complaints during or after the event. Every detail was thought of and the organisation was impeccable. Thank you to G-Research for the fantastic venue and sponsoring the tournament. During the breaks, attendees were also able to play on a brand new automatic table. The entire tournament was filmed and documented and I am sure everybody is eagerly awaiting to see the finished product in due time. Honestly, one of the best events I've attended and I will make sure to tell everybody to come to the next one!