



OBSERVER REPORT

for the 11th UK OPEN RIICHI MAHJONG CHAMPIONSHIP 2022

(*Riichi Competition Rules, MERS 3*)

OBSERVER:

Saiming FUNG (FRA)

DATE:

Saturday 23rd - Sunday 24th July 2022

PLACE:

Godalming (United Kingdom),
picturesque town situated in the countryside in the southern England, located 30 miles to the south west of London.
Easy access by road and by rail from London Waterloo (47 mins).

WEBSITE OR OTHER SOURCE(S) OF INFORMATION:

All the tournament details are available on <https://ukrc2022.azurewebsites.net> website.

PARTICIPANTS:

48 players were registered, with 7 represented countries as follow :

Country	Number of players
United Kingdom	33
Hong Kong S.A.R.	1
Netherlands	1
France	6
Germany	1
Spain	2
Switzerland	4
Total =	48

PLAYING SCHEDULE: SAT/SUN:

The tournament took place on 2 days, detailed time table as mentioned below

Saturday 23rd July		Sunday 24th July	
9.00 a.m.	Registration	9.00 a.m.	Registration
9.30 a.m.	Riichi Briefing	9.30 a.m.	Hanchan 6

9.40 a.m.	Hanchan 1	11.00 a.m.	Break
11.10 a.m.	Break	11.15 a.m.	Hanchan 7
11.25 a.m.	Hanchan 2	12.45 p.m.	Lunch
1.00 p.m.	Lunch	1.45 p.m.	Hanchan 8
1.45 p.m.	Hanchan 3	3.15 p.m.	Play closes
3.15 p.m.	Break	3.30 p.m.	Results and Prizes
3:30 p.m.	Hanchan 4		
5.00 p.m.	Break		
5.15 p.m.	Hanchan 5		
6.45 p.m.	Play closes		

WEIGHT :

Duration	Countries	Players	Weight duration	Weight countries	Weight players	Qualification	Total weight
2 days	7	48	+2	+0.5	+0.5	+0	3

LOCATION :

The tournament took place at the **Godalming Masonic Hall**, located in the wooded valley of the River Ock on the south side of the town.

A spacious location with free parking spaces provided for the participants, and easy access from downtown and local train station which is about 10 minutes walk distance.



The main function room used as game room was spacious enough to host comfortably 48 players and leave space between tables with avoiding disturbance during games.

The reception area is accessible to participants during their breaks and social moments.



EQUIPMENT:

2,6 x 1,9 x 1,6 cm regular riichi mahjong set with 65 x 65 cm riichi mahjong on folding bridge tables were used for the game sessions.

A print of the riichi Yaku overview and summery sheet was available on each table.

Sanitizer hand gel was available.

REFEREEING:

Mr. Shaun Drury (GBR), Mr. Philip Bielby (GBR) and Mr. John Duckworth (GBR) were assigned as player referees.

COMPLAINTS:

No complaint has been recorded during the event.

INFORMATION / COMMUNICATION DURING THE TOURNAMENT:

Information was clear and well communicated throughout the tournament.

Information about players seat maps was given on prints during registration on Saturday morning before the first game session. The organisation team had planned a set of 48-player seat map, and an additional spare set of 44-players seating map in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Global information was given to all participants during the tournament opening meeting, which included the welcome messages to the players, the tournament schedules, the assignment of the referees and the observer for the tournament, and other rules and instructions about the event.

Additionally, as this was one of the first MERS tournaments after COVID-19 unfreeze. the organization team recommended the players to take protective measures, such as wearing face masks and use sanitizing hand gel, despite the abrogation of the previous EMA COVID-19-special-ruling.

Scoreboard was projected on TV screens in the game room and reception area, so each participant can see to the results and ranking after each game session.

Additionally, a live website put online : <https://ukmlive.azurewebsites.net> giving basic tournament results and advanced player performance :

- Overall results,
- Individual results,
- Ranking by results,
- Top 10 highest scores,
- 10 Lowest scores,
- Total penalties

SESSIONS:



A non-player assistant was appointed to manage game sessions, with the role of, in the beginning of each game session, giving the kick-off signal to clearly inform the players of the timer start, and managing the score entries.

During each game session, a visible timer clock was projected from a computer on TV screen in the game room.

Results and ranking are up to date between each session, displayed on the TV screen.

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

CATERING:

Free water, tea and coffee was provided at all time from the morning to the end of the each day.

Other refreshments (such as soft drink, beer and wine) and bacon rolls could be bought at the licensed bar of the Masonic Halls at cost of a couple of GBP.

Lunch was included within the tournament fees.

Hot meal was served at lunchtime on both days. Participants served food at the self-buffet :

Chili con carne, rice, vegetable and profiteroles on Saturday ;

Bourguignon beef stew, mashed potato, vegetable, and the white chocolate cheesecake on Sunday.

PRIZES:



Trophies for individual ranking for
1st, 2nd and 3rd best players

the UK Riichi Mahjong Champion trophee,

Incentive reward for the best improver,

reward for the biggest hand.

A consolation prize was given to the last ranked player

FINAL OBSERVED RANKING:

Position	Player Name	Total Score
1	Andy Mathew	210,200
2	Ronan White	140,500
3	Duy Le	13500
4	Anton Chekanov	113,700
5	Dennis Chau	91,700
6	Ian Fraser	85,100
7	John Duckworth	84,300
8	Yangdong Xiao	83,800
9	Ivar Bouwman	81,100
10	Benoit Dessort	72,600
11	Joel Ratsimandresy	58,600
12	Sonia Yagi	57,300
13	Ian Zhang	54,700
14	Ben Wilton	54,200
15	Richard Langtry	44,600
16	Shaun Drury	42,300
17	George Twigg	40,200
18	Timur Hahn	39,400
19	Christopher Endicott	37,700
20	Matthew Johnson	30,300
21	Alex Leung	25,100
22	Tom Pearson	21,300
23	Jay Li	9,400
24	Joaquin Derrac Rus	6,600

Position	Player Name	Total Score
25	Michael Short	4,500
26	Lauryn Lewis	1,300
27	Linxuan He	-5,100
28	Perran Archbold	-9,200
29	Caroline Arnaud	-9,800
30	Junchen Liu	-15,200
31	Paola Bungaro	-16,700
32	Ashley Baldry	-16,800
33	Norma Todd	-22,100
34	Thibaut Arnold	-27,100
35	Philip Bielby	-33,100
36	Nick Dyer	-51,400
37	John Wood	-60,300
38	Saiming Fung	-77,300
39	Natalia Mecner	-103,300
40	Andrew Smith	-108,200
41	Lindor Shala	-114,500
42	Kohei Miyake	-119,300
43	Eliot Hollier	-120,400
44	Cédric Aguerre	-120,600
45	Jem Short	-127,400
46	Devi Steck	-173,600
47	Tim Richardson	-192,800
48	Oliver Burrows	-224,300

CONCLUSION:

The event was definitely a success !

It gave the opportunity to bring together passionate mahjong players from all over the UK and other countries in a privileged setting in a picturesque town of Godalming with magnificent landscapes under a sunny weather.

It looks like that for a brunch of participants, this was their first real-life competition. Therefore, this tournament has perfectly fulfilled its mission of giving rise to a meeting.

The organisation of the event is undoubtedly one of the strong points. Participants are very well taken care by the hosts without leaving anyone alone or get bored. Participants were all invited to join at the pub nearby in Friday and Saturday evenings to socialise, share drink and meal, and even play mahjong again.

The IT tool was efficient, in particular the provision of scores and game performance statistics on their live website was appreciated by the competitors.

A big thank to the organisation team for having hosted this absolute friendly event !