



Observer report for the Manganneken Pis Riichi tournament 2022

Observer: Manuel Kameda-Schlich

Date: 10th – 11th of September 2022

Place: Salle « Le Malibran », Rue de la Digue 10, 1050 Ixelles/Elsene; Brussels, BELGIUM

Website or other source(s) of information:

<https://brusselasmahjongclub.home.blog/2022/04/12/manganneken-pis/> provided all the necessary information about the location, the tournament fee and time schedule.

Participants: 64 players representing 10 countries (*MERS 3.5*)

--> For some reasons, EMA did not list players w/o an EMA number...!!!

| BEL | FRA | NED | GER | UKR | EUR | SUI | POR | POL | CZE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 22 | 15 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Playing schedule: 2 days, 9 hanchan of 90 minutes each

Location: A multiuse playing area at the first floor with a relaxation area for the players at the ground level the location was very good to reach by foot and via tram. Parking spaces with cars were rather scarce though. The room big enough and toilets were directly adjacent to the relaxation area.

Equipment: Twelve tables were equipped with junk-mats and standard mahjong sets with yellow-ocre backs. All sets were in a good shape and were usable without any issues.

Refereeing: Piti Phanpanich and Pierre Beinstingel served as the non-playing referees. A few calls for them were made during whole tournament

Complaints:

- One player refused to calculate the score multiple times so a referee needed to be called. After initial refusing, a rough score was given. The referee did not penalize, in my opinion, it should have been enforced though.
- The room had no active air circulation and the large windows couldn't been opened. Luckily it wasn't summer, so it was just stuffy but not extremely hot. The organizers should consider not to hold a tournament at the same place in summer though.
- Lunch on the first day was regarded to be to be not enough.

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. The seating was visible on a small hand out sheet with the corresponding player numbers. Placement was updated after every hanchan.

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 some players who behaved a little odd (flashy MJ playing like in anime, e.g.: one always shouted "Riichi" across the room at all times) but the overall atmosphere was competitive and well-paced.

Catering:

Snacks, water, tea and coffee, juices, self-made brownies and speculoos cookies were available all the time. For the lunch break on the first day, we received a glass bowl with some vegetarian noodle-pesto-salad. On the second day, organizers ordered pizza that was shared among the players.

Prizes:

There were "Manneken Pis"-trophies (a famous statue in Brussels of a peeing boy) for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Winner of the tournament was **Nathan Germeau** (BEL), runnerup **Mustapha Zahid** (BEL) and the third place went to **Olav Sommers** (NLD). There were also several "thank-you-boxes" of finest Belgian chocolate handed out to players who had the highest scores per hanchan and to people who helped the organizers in any way.

Conclusion:

Very pleasant tournament and well organised for their first one! The location was suited well but please consider that this place might not be an option during hot days.