



Observer report for the 5th Rode Lotus Tournament – Second Part of the Rode Lotus Cup 2023 (MCR, MERS 3)

Observer: marco montebelli

Date: september, 9th – 10th 2023

Place: Leuven, Belgium

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website <https://www.mahjongbelgium.be/rode-lotus-mcr-2023/>: general information, registration, program, list of participants....

Participants: 44 players, from 8 countries: France (18 players), Netherlands (10), Belgium (9), Switzerland (3), Germany (1), Italy (1), Poland (1), Portugal (1).

Playing schedule: 2 days, 7 rounds (4+3) of 115 minutes

Location: Bridgeclub Pieterman, Brusselsestraat 61. The playing room was large enough to host all players and leave space between them. Easy access by foot or bike.

Equipment: We played with standard game sets (without numbers) on bordered tables.

Refereeing: Ans Hoogland was non-player referee.

Complaints: None.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected on a computer. A gong clearly informs players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking updated between each session, printed on sheets and posted in various places of the venue.

Sessions: Excellent playing atmosphere (FFF).

Catering: Great variety of sandwiches with vegetarian/vegan options for lunches of Saturday and Sunday, arranged in a room next to the playing room. Coffee breaks (snacks and cakes) between rounds, water bottles free and soft drinks and beers at low prices.

Prizes: trophies for individual ranking (best three players) and for the winner of the Rode Lotus Cup (combined MCR-Riichi); special gifts for the referee, for the last in the ranking, for the last “chicken hand”; free registration next year for the substitute player.

Conclusion: Very nice tournament in a very pretty town, well-organised and with a lot of good players. Good idea the combined MCR-Riichi.