



Observer report for Hatsumi Taikai in Krakow (Riichi)

Observer: Michael Gürtl-Dusleag

Date: 17.-18.02.2024

Place: Krakow, Poland

Website or other source(s) of information:

Registration and information on

<https://chombo.club/en/tournaments/2023/10/06/hatsumi-taikai/>

Results on

<https://mahjongtracker.com/app/tournaments/65ce6db42d88d7001c29dc38>

Participants: 84 players from 8 countries.

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 rounds of 75 min.

Location:

Mathematics and Informatics Faculty of Jagiellonian University.

There were two big enough rooms for playing, another room for tea coffee and snacks. There was also ample space in the building with couches to sit and rest.

There were enough toilets that were nice and clean.

The location was easily reachable by public transport from the city center, and a hotel and hostel was near as well.

Equipment: The equipment was standard yellow backed tiles of different size and junkmats on square tables.

The scoring, as announced at registration time, was done via the e-scoring system "MahjongTracker", which worked well and was easy enough to handle also for people not used to it. QR Codes with links to tutorials and live standings were available around the room

After the first hanchan there were some minor complaints from players that scores were entered too fast for them to confirm it. The organizers then asked all players to make sure for this to not happen again. I did not hear any more complaints about it afterwards.

Refereeing:

Michał Herdaj, Mateusz Maćkowski and Fabien Sacha were non playing referees while Szymon Nowicz acted as backup as playing referee.

Every situation I witnessed was solved swiftly and competently, and I did not hear any complaints otherwise.

Complaints: None.

Information / communication during the tournament:

The clock was projected on a big screen in both playing rooms, and also on each device used for mahjong tracker during play. The start and End of each round was announced clearly by the organizers.

Sessions: The overall playing atmosphere was very good, friendly but competitive and fair.

Catering: Lunch was asian takeaway(curry with rice or noodles, with or without meat) on both days that was delivered to the venue in a timely manner, right before the second hanchan on each day ended.

There was coffee and sweet snacks available at all time as well.

Last but not least there was a mobile tea house run by Michał Herda serving all kind of different teas out of an astonishing amount of different pots.

An absolutely great addition!

On Saturday evening there was a social gathering at a pub, near the center of krakow with a reserved room where it was possible to talk, have a drink play games and have a good time with fellow mah-jong players.

Prizes: Big and really awesome looking trophies for the first three places, and smaller trophies for top ten and for certain achievements.

Conclusion: The organization was very good, with everything working as planned, which is absolutely great, with 84 players being quite a big tournament, and I can nothing but recommend to attend the next iteration.