



**Observer report for 4th Mizuchi no Zaihou 2024 (Riichi, MERS 3,5)**

**Observer:** Lena Weinguny

**Date:** April 20 – 21, 2024

**Place:** Brno, Czech Republic

**Website or other source(s) of information:**

All tournament information (date, venue, information on public transport to the venue, registration fee, max. number of players, deadlines for registration and payment, referees and EMA observer) were announced on the website linked on the EMA calendar. More information was sent to registered players via email in a timely manner before the tournament (payment information, lunch options).

**Participants:** 44 players

**Represented countries:** Poland (12), Austria (8), Slovakia (5), France (5), Czech Republic (5), Ukraine (4), Germany (2), Switzerland (1), Romania (1), Portugal (1), Great Britain (1), Non-EMA (1)

**Playing schedule:** 2 days, 8 rounds (4+4)

**Location:** Like last year, the tournament was held at “Bowling Brno”, a bowling center with an associated seminar room. The room was big enough to fit all the players comfortably, the adjacent room where people could hang out after they finished playing was a little small, which led to people staying in the playing area and sometimes causing noise in a disturbing volume.

**Equipment:** Tables, sets and mats were all in good condition. Some sets were a different size than others, but that didn’t affect play at all.

**Refereeing:** Martin Divis and Lukasz Grzybowski were both playing referees. They responded to calls promptly and issues were resolved quickly most of the time. There were also additional helpers to provide additional sticks if needed so the referees wouldn’t need to interrupt their play for that.

**Information / communication during the tournament:**

Seating was predetermined, tables were posted to the wall.

Timer was projected to the wall with a beamer and was visible from every position in the room.

Standings were also projected to the wall after almost every hanchan.

Lunch choices were printed to the name tags to make them easier to remember.

**Sessions:** I experienced a mostly competitive but friendly atmosphere. I heard people talk about occasional events of people being a little angry or tense but nobody filed an official complaint.

**Catering:** Lunch in the restaurant of the bowling center was very good quality and drinks were not included but very affordable. Coffee breaks included coffee and tea as well as fruit and vegetables.

**Prizes:** Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup>) and one more for the last place, who also got a voucher for free participation at next year's tournament.

**Complaints:**

- Lighting was bad at some tables (no direct light above the table).
- Predetermined seating was not announced before the tournament. Also, we drew numbers at the beginning of the tournament with no obvious reason (as the seating was already determined).
- Seating tables had slightly confusing wording ("group" instead of "table").
- Score sheets had confusing wording as well ("bonus" instead of "penalties").
- Increasing noise towards the end of hanchans due to people staying in the playing room.

**Conclusion:** Nice tournament in Brno with great food, pleasant atmosphere and a good value-for-money ratio. Some minor need for improvement (see complaints) – but nobody is perfect 😊