



Observer report for Rode Lotus Riichi 2024

Observer: Ivar Bouwman

Date: April 27th – 28th, 2024

Place: Bridgeclub Pieterman in the centre of Leuven, Belgium

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website <https://www.mahjongbelgium.be/rode-lotus-riichi-2024/>: registration, schedule, list of participant, and scores between rounds.

Participants: 48 players

Participating countries:

BEL FRA NED JAP GBR

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Playing schedule: : 2 days, 9 rounds (5+4) of ~ 90 minutes (session of 75min, then finish the hand + 1 more)

Location: The location has separate rooms for playing and breaks, the playing room was big enough to host 48 players and leave enough space to move around between them. The location was in the centre of Leuven, easily accessible by public transport and a lot of accommodations close by.

Equipment: We played on standard square tables with a variety of sets. While most sets were of good quality, there were two sets that were uncomfortably shiny.

Refereeing: Pierre Beistingel and Piti Phanpanich were non-playing referees for the first day. On the second day because of a player stepping out of the tournament, Pierre stepped in as substitute player while remaining playing referee. Piti stayed as non-playing referee for both days.

Complaints:

- Due to the high ceiling in the room it can get loud easily when a lot of people are talking.
- Multiple players were unable to properly calculate their own score, leaving more experienced players to correct them and calculate for them.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock on a computer screen at the front of the room, clearly visible for all tables. A gong informs players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking was up to date between each session, printed and posted on walls and updated online.

Sessions: A good and friendly playing atmosphere with a healthy mix of experienced and newer players.

Catering: In the mornings a variety of pastries and baked goods. Lunch was served in the same place, first day was soup and an arrangement of sandwiches. Second day was soup with an arrangement of wraps. At registration players were handed 4 vouchers for hot- or soft drinks, water was free from the tap. Before the last round on both days snacks were put on the tables in the break room.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), a voucher to play the tournament for free next year for the last place. A "Ritchie" lemonade for people with the highest score every round. Mugs for the registration number 15, the player ranking 15th in celebration of the 15th year anniversary of the tournament, and the highest ranking member of the organizing club.

Since this is a double tournament an extra trophy will be given to the person who performed the best over both this tournament and the MCR counterpart held next week.

Conclusion: This was my third time playing here in Leuven, and as always it was an excellent tournament. Great catering, nice playing atmosphere and experienced organizers. I will definitely be back next year!