



Observer report for THORN TAIKAI 2024 (Riichi, MERS 3,5)

Observer: Sérgio Matos Lima

Date: June 1st – 2nd 2024

Place: Toruń, Poland

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website of organizers : registration, program, list of participants, club of participants...

<https://chiithorn.pl/thorn-taikai24-en/>

Participants: 80 players, 6 countries with following headcount:
Poland: 70 ; Germany - 4; Ukraine: 3; France: 1; Switzerland: 1; Portugal: 1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 rounds (4+4) of 90 minutes

Location: In the city center of Toruń, in the prestigious Cultural Center of the city - small Hall and Silver Hall of Artus Manor. 87-100 Toruń, Rynek Staromiejski 6.

Equipment: We played with near-mint games and tables. Mahjong tracker app was used to count points. One riichi stick per player at each table.

Refereeing: Fabien Sacha (head and non-playing referee) and Marta Bacic, Szymon Lasota & Thibaut Arnold as playing referees.

Complaints:

- A player mentioned that he/she was used to have a gong instead of a referee announcing start / end of han chans.
- Room could be loud at some point, leading to numerous shushing from the referee which were perceived as too intense by some players.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on multiple screens. The referee (with speakers) clearly informs players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date between each session, projected on walls and available online.

Sessions: Excellent playing atmosphere, FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun).

Catering: Lunch in the same place (typical Polish food), drinks and others.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th) as well as special prizes for staff and specific trophies (most 1 han chan won,...). Gift included custom made gingerbread which is a local speciality of the city.

Conclusion: Flawless hosting of Chiithorn association for their first MERS tournament. A lot of positive feedback were raised regarding the organization (clear guidelines from organizer and referees, sorting of seating via stream before the tournament, respect of agenda, resting rooms,...), the location and venue, and even the catering and gifts.