



## **Observer report for Breizh Open 2024 (RCR, MERS 2.5, French Championship)**

**Observer:** Jérémie PIERARD DE MAUJOUY

**Date:** June 8th - 9th 2024

**Place:** Rennes, France

**Website or other source(s) of information:** All information on the website of the hosting club Breizh Mahjong, including live scores.

**Participants:** 52 players

### **Represented countries:**

France: 48 players

Swiss: 1 player

Spain: 1 player

Portugal: 1 player

Canada: 1 player

**Playing schedule:** 2 days, 9 rounds of 75 minutes + 1 extra round (5 on Saturday and 4 on Sunday).

**Location:** The Institut Confucius de Bretagne (local centre for Chinese culture) in Rennes. 15 minutes away from the main station by transportation. There was a large courtyard for people to wait between the games.

**Equipment:** 13 bridge tables, each one equipped with a junk mat, a Japanese mahjong set (of slightly varying dimensions), and a plastic-covered all last sheet with a whiteboard marker. One table was deeper at the centre which was inconvenient for handling tiles. At least one set had several tiles which presented visible marks.

**Refereeing:** Yulong Zhao was non-player referee.

**Complaints:** There were minor complaints regarding the absence of ballpoint pens on most tables for filling in the result sheets, or the deep table on which the tiles were prone to falling.

### **Information / communication during the tournament:**

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. Staff announced the start of each games, and a recorded voice (later repeated by the staff) announced when there were 15 and 5 minutes remaining as well as the end of the timer. Ranking and seating were

displayed on the screen between games (players also had papers with their seatings listed).

**Sessions:** Great playing atmosphere. The first two sessions were particularly quiet, but the room had to be called to order a few times in the later games.

**Catering:** Tea, coffee and a supply of bottles of water, as well as cereal bars, chocolate bars and fruits were available and much appreciated by the participants. Lunch was served in other rooms of the Institute. It was selected so that the same dish would fit all (or almost all) of the dietary restrictions of the participants.

**Prizes:** Trophies for the top 3 along with some traditional Brittany goods. Trophy for the best ranked player from the French federation, who receives the title of French Champion. Each player who ranked in the top 10 also received a traditional Brittany cidre cup.

**Conclusion:** Very pleasant tournament in Rennes, with a lot of players from other clubs. Although there were many participants for who this was the first official tournament experience, the event went very smoothly. The participation from foreign countries remains low.