



## Observer report for Heart of England Riichi 2025 (RCR, MERS 3)

**Observer:** Olav Sommers





**Date:** April 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

**Place:** Birmingham, England

**Website or other source(s) of information:** All information could be found on the newly designed website. Reminders were also sent via various emails.

**Participants:** 68 players

### Represented countries

GBR	NED	GER	HKG	SUI	IRL	ESP	SWE	MYS
								
51	5	3	3	2	1	1	1	1

**Playing schedule:** 2 days, 8 rounds (4+4) of 75 minutes + 1 game

**Location:** The West Midlands Bridge Club has ample space for the 68 participants. There was a separate dining area. There were more than enough toilets available.

**Equipment:** All tables were the same and there were no different playsets.

**Refereeing:** There were three referees present who played along. The EMA observer did not receive any complaints about this. So it must have been to everyone's satisfaction.

**Complaints:** The draw for player numbers had already been done in advance. That had a lot of advantages, such as a scorecard with name on it. There was also no one who thought that the schedule had been tampered with. But according to the EMA rules, a draw should be transparent.

### Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. A gong clearly informs players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date between each session posted on big screen. The standings and many statistics could also be viewed online, which was eagerly used.

**Sessions:** There were a lot of participants who were playing a tournament for the first time. That sometimes requires some patience from the more experienced players. But no bad words were spoken. So the FFF of the EMA was certainly applicable.

**Catering:** The lunch was excellent. There was plenty of choice (Lasagne, curry, fries, chili, etc.) and more than enough to eat. The fruit and snacks were also constantly replenished

**Prizes:** Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup>), and special prizes for the second to last place and best improvement after the first day.

**Conclusion:** A very well organised tournament with Sonia Yagi in the lead role. Due to the exceptionally nice weather many players stayed outside. And then Sonia kept calling everyone back. With a smile and a light pressure of 1000 penalty points for everyone who was not at the table on time. What was striking about the list of participants was the fact that there were many players without an EMA number. After the prize ceremony, everyone went to the airport, pub or home with a good feeling.