



Observer report for the Rode Lotus Riichi 2025 Tournament

Observer: GHERMAN Vasile

Date: 7 September 2025

Place: Leuven, Belgium

Website or other source(s) of information: All information were on the website of MahjongBelgium.be/Rode-Lotus-cup (the registration, the location of the tournament, the schedule, the fee and the list of participants).

Participants: 48 players.

Countries represented: Belgium (29), Netherlands (12), France (3), Switzerland (1), Italy (1) Germany (1) and Hungary (1).

Playing schedule: 1 day, 5 rounds of 115 minutes: finishing the hand + one more.

Location: In the center of Leuven, at the bridgeclub Pieterman, Brusselsestraat 61. The club has 3 big rooms; one was the playing room with all the tables, spacious, well lit, climatized when needed and the other two rooms were for the breaks and the lunch.

Equipment: We played with standard Riichi mahjong sets. All in good quality, some table didn't have the 500 sticks so the players at those tables had to use ten 100 sticks.

Refereeing: Henri Devillez, non-playing referee.

Complaints: Some players complained about the lunch and the breaks being too long. The organizer Marieke understood, and she decided to start the 4th and 5th game 5 minutes earlier.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected on a screen. A 10 second countdown clearly informs players of the start and the end of sessions. Scores and Ranking were printed and shown at two locations in the venue. The referee announced to the players who had already finished their game to be respectful to the still playing tables and to go on the two other rooms instead of chatting in the playing room. Also, he reminded to all players to rearrange all the sticks when the game is finished, to sort the tiles and to put the winds out.

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

Catering: Snacks in the corridor next to the playing room. Some coupons were given to the players for free drinks. Lunch was sandwiches and a soup taken in the non-playing rooms.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd). A badge for each player winning a yakuman but none was won.

A trophy for the winner of the Rode Lotus Cup 2025, the best ranked player out of the MCR and the Riichi tournaments.

Conclusion: Very nice tournament in Leuven, great organization as always. Everyone was happy to play, and it was a wonderful Sunday.