



## Observer report for Riichi Danish Championship 2025 (RCR, MERS 3,5)

**Observer:** Klaudia LENSU















**Date:** September 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 2025

**Place:** Copenhagen, Denmark

**Website or other source(s) of information:** All necessary information could be found on the website of Mahjong Danmark. Information about social games (on Thursday) and accommodation was also included. A reminder email with the seatings and other information was sent five days before the tournament.

**Participants:** 52 players. One player fell ill before the tournament, so one of the organisers competed as a full player in their place.

### Represented countries

DEN	SWE	POL	FIN	NED	GER	GBR	ESP	USA	SVK	SUI	ITA	EUR	AUT
													
14	10	7	5	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1

**Playing schedule:** 2 days, 8 rounds (5+3) of 90 minutes (75 minutes, current hand + 1 more)

**Tournament format:** Round robin.

**Location:** At Haraldsgade 69, with several nearby bus stops and a metro station within walking distance. The venue was a large, well lit room on the second floor of the building. The tables were arranged in one half of the room. Mostly separated from them by screens was a rest area with several sofas, and a bar area with tables, snacks and drinks. Four bathrooms were located through a corridor behind the bar. There was also a cloakroom near the entrance.

**Equipment:** The tiles and point sticks were of standard good riichi quality, in good condition. The tables were custom felt tables well suited for mahjong play. High-quality custom-made plates for writing the scores during all-last were provided.

There was no place to store point sticks visibly. They could either be placed in a tray onto a side chair, or into a drawer in the table. This, in combination with every player having nine 1000-point sticks, made it more difficult than usual to track scores during gameplay. This presented no major issues in all-last calculations, though.

**Refereeing:** Eskild Middelboe was a non-playing referee. Tina Christensen worked as non-playing support staff.

**Complaints:** The seatings were done in advance with an unexplained method. Though the seatings were fair, the process should still have been more open. (This is a common issue in many tournaments.)

The scoring sheets used were of an old format designed for play without sticks; this caused some confusion at the beginning of the tournament but didn't cause any further trouble.

**Information / communication during the tournament:**

A visible clock was projected from a computer to a wall, though it could have been clearer. A beautiful, loud gong was used to inform the players when they should take their seats, of the beginning of the sessions, and of the 75 minute mark. Updated ranking sheets were posted on the walls between sessions. The referee made announcements about pertinent issues before the start of sessions. Personal seating charts were provided to the players at the start of the tournament, and the scoring sheets for each session had the names and seats of the players.

**Sessions:** Excellent playing atmosphere, FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun). The referee made clear the importance of a quiet playing atmosphere, which was maintained with friendly cooperation.

**Catering:** Lunch was served in a Chinese restaurant across the street. The tables were provided large bowls of rice and five different other dishes to share. The amount of food was plentiful for everyone. Special praise for the lunch was given by players.

At the venue, snacks including vegetable sticks, chips, dips and biscuits were provided. Drinks included coffee, teas, soft drinks and beer. Even the beer was free to celebrate the anniversary of Mahjong Danmark. The access to fresh water was somewhat limited.

**Prizes:** The first, second and third place each received a trophy and a Danish design item. A special trophy was given to the best Danish player.

**Conclusion:** Very nice, well organised tournament in Copenhagen, in an excellent venue with great catering. The atmosphere was very friendly and communication was well handled.