



O B S E R V E R R E P O R T
for
UNDER THE SEA 2025
6th FINNISH RIICHI CHAMPIONSHIP
(RIICHI, MERS 2.5)

Observer:  Krzysztof DĄBROWSKI, *Founder of ChiiThorn Toruń Mahjong club*

Date: 4-5 October 2025

Place:  Turku, Finland

Source(s) of information: Information about the tournament was published on the Organizers website (<https://www.nagashi.fi/turnaus/>). The information was written in two languages (Finnish, English) and included: participants list, agenda, location.

Participants: 52 competitors, representing 3 countries.

 Finland	 Poland	 Latvia
49	2	1

Playing schedule:

Four hanchans on Saturday, four hanchans on Sunday. Hanchans followed a 75+1 system (once 75 minutes have passed, players have to finish the current hand and play one more). The end signal was a bell ring.

Players were scheduled following Andrew Smith's System for scheduling tournaments.

**Location:**

The tournament took place in the ballroom of T-Talo, an event-hosting venue located around 15 minutes by foot from Kupittaa railway station. Location was decently communicated with the rest of town due to multiple bus stops nearby.

The room provided more than enough space for 13 tables and could even easily fit a couple more. The ballroom had mirrors on one wall. It did not turn out to be a problem thanks to the strategic positioning of tables as well as creative solutions of the organizers. Warm light from above could feel a bit darker than usual, but was not an issue as all tables were evenly lit.

Equipment:

Every table had the same setup prepared: a set, a junkmat, two dice, a calculator, a laminated ruleset, a reusable All-Last Sheet, a compass and 4 packs of tenbo (1x10k, 2x5k, 9x1k, 1x500, 5x100). The setups varied in style and “tournament experience”, but all of them were high quality.

Refereeing:

🇫🇮 Joni Ilkka was the head, non-playing referee. There was also one playing referee, 🇫🇮 Petteri Huuskonen. Referees were reacting when called, smoothly providing help and solving disputes.

Complaints:

During the tournament there were no complaints given by competitors to the Observer.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Big screen showing remaining time and seating for the upcoming hanchan. Schedule cards available for every competitor. Additionally, the matchups were posted in multiple places around the venue. Results after each hanchan were shown publicly a couple minutes before the next hanchan was starting.

Sessions:

Started on time, with one interesting case of starting before the planned hour, as all players were ready and already waiting. A friendly, yet competitive atmosphere encouraged players to surpass the limits of their hands.

Catering:

Snacks, water and coffee available for the whole time of a tournament in a resting room, as well as two fridges waiting for interested competitors to bring their own snacks. In terms of a meal, the location was close to a couple kebab-pizzerias. The restaurants were not ready for that amount of interested guests at Day 1, but the Organizers team adjusted the after-break schedule a bit to accommodate the situation.

**Prizes:**

Trophies for Top 3 players as well as for the Finnish Champion (best Finnish player in a tournament). Snacks for rare hands (*yakuman*, *nagashi mangan*, *kazoe yakuman*)

Conclusion:

If you want to take part in a solidly organized tournament, Finland will not disappoint you. This was my second tournament in the country and I am in awe, how well things are done here. If you think about going, bring your club mates for sure - Finland is more than ready to welcome Every Single One of You.

Unieszewo, Poland, 2025-10-06

K. Dąbrowski