



Observer report for 19th OPEN ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

(MCR, MERS 4)

Observer: Anton Kösters

Date: March November 22,23





Place: Milan, Italy

Website or other source(s) of information:

All tournament information available on website. Regular updates by mail in the weeks before.

Participants: 120 players from 8 countries

Represented countries:

ITA	FRA	SUI	NED	GER	ESP	BEL	SWE	RUS	POL
									
53	34	10	5	5	4	4	3	1	1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 7 rounds (4+3) of 115 minutes

Location: Salone della cooperazione, Giacomo Matteotti, *Cinisello Balsamo (Milan)*

A large hall, normally used for dance/ballet lessons and performances. Situated in one of the suburbs North of Milano. Excellent place for a mahjong tournament.

One part of the hall was used for playing, a separated area for lunch and cafe/bar.

Equipment:

Sufficient tables and mahjong sets. Square and round tables with table decks.

Refereeing:

There were four playing referee's.

Remarks:

Comments received:

- The round tables were larger than the table decks. Players with short arms had problems reaching for tiles on the other side of the table.
- There were no wind indicators.
- Not all tables were aligned in the same East- direction.
- There was no non-playing referee. It is advisable to have at least one non-playing referee for such a large tournament.
- Although the playing area was large enough, there was little place left to have lunch.

- One complaint about a slightly damaged tile that was recognizable even when not open on the table. Another complaint was about flower-tiles, that had a slightly different colour on top and therefore also recognizable when still in the wall.
- Telephones ringing during games, some hidden in a bag outside the playing area.
- One player advised the use of hand sanitizer before picking up lunch items.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Intermediate and final results projected shortly after each round in the tournament venue. Announcements vocally without microphone.

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

Catering: Coffee, tea, and other drinks available at the bar. Water bottles freely available. A lunch buffet was served on both days with lots of choice.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), and best 10 players. Trophies for team-ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd). Prizes for the players with most mini-points in each round.

Conclusion: Excellent Italian style tournament. Looking forward to number 20.