



Observer report for The Pirates Cup (MCR, MERS 3,5)

Observer: Marco Montebelli

Date: February 7th – 8th, 2026

Place: Nanterre, France

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website:

<https://mahjongenseine.fr/> of the club “Mahjong en Seine” on the page:

https://mahjongenseine.fr/?page_id=2077

Participants: 100 players, from 7 countries: France (76 players), Italy (15), Spain (3), Switzerland (2), Germany (2), Netherlands (1), Poland (1).

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

Location: Mercure Paris la Défense Grande Arche hotel, a big room large enough to host 100 players with not a lot of space between the tables.

Equipment: We played with good games sets and bordered tables, all in perfect condition.

Refereeing: Astrid Dubedout was non-player referee, assisted by Loïc De Kergommeaux and Alberto Rosi, referee-players.

Complaints: One player complained about the lack of space between tables and that it would have been better to limit the tournament to 80 players, providing an extra chair at each table; another one did not like the fact that everyone started with a “warning” without having committed any infringement.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected on a screen. A gong clearly informs players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date between each session, projected on the same screen.

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

Catering: Lunches (1 hot dish + dessert) in the same place. Free breakfast in the morning, snacks and drinks at every break.

Prizes: Prizes (boxes with food products) for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), for the best team, for the high score in a round. Gifts for the last in the ranking, for the referees and for the EMA observer.

Conclusion: Very nice tournament in Nanterre: perfect organization and well-done pirate setting. I'll be there at the next edition too.