

Observer Report 16th Belgium Open MCR

Observer : Eveline Broers
Date : Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 march 2026
Place : Temse (Belgium)

MERS 2 tournament

Information could be found on the website kleine3draken.be
Information at the website was clear and complete.

Participants

There were 96 players from Belgium (13), The Netherlands (34), Germany (11), France (35) and Switzerland (3).

Playing Schedule

2 days, 7 rounds of 120 minutes.
4 rounds at day 1, 3 rounds at day 2.

At the start of the rounds, the clock was set on 115 minutes. So 5 minutes before the end of a round a signal was given. At that moment the current game could be finished, no new game could be started.

Location

The tournament took place in the Community Centre of Temse

Equipment

Good. We played on mahjongtables with big tile mahjongsets.

Refereeing

Because two different players failed to show up on both day 1 and day 2, the organization had to decide to allow the non-playing referee to participate in the tournament after all. This was explained to the players. Everyone agreed. There were ultimately three playing referees: Marion Hoarau, Michel van Damme and Peter van Damme.
There were no big issues.

Complaints and compliments

Two players contacted me at the end of the tournament.

-A French player asked me to report that it was a great tournament. Tables and tiles were good, enough space between the tables, good food, well organized and all in a friendly and sportive atmosphere.

-A Swiss player complained about the fact that no results were published after round 6. He considered it important that everyone knew the score before entering the final round. Inquiries with the organization yielded the answer that it was done on purpose to keep the suspense going. A matter of a difference of opinion.

-Several players indicated they were happy with the changed schedule. The gong now sounded after 115 minutes, whereas in previous years it was 110 minutes.

As indicated in previous reports it would be nice if the EMA made this mandatory for MERS2 tournaments, so that all tournaments have the same playing time.

Information/communication during the tournament

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen.

The results were available in time, printed and posted on walls. There were no results posted after round 6.

Catering

Lunch in the same place, served on plates. A hardworking kitchen brigade delivered a very good job.

On both days after the first round there was soup and lunch after the second round. Bread on day 1 and a very special lunch on day 2: homemade beef stew with fresh fries. A typical Belgium dish.

Prizes

There were prizes for the numbers 1, 2 and 3 and a price for the last ranked player. There was also a price for the number 16, because of the 16th audition of the tournament.

Conclusion

The tournament was well organized, as always. We played competitive but in

an excellent atmosphere (FFF).