Observer report for Open Stanislas 2026

Observer: Marieke Verheyden

Date: October 24-25, 2026

Place: Nancy, France

Website or other source(s) of information: All relevant information available on the website of hosting club Nemausos54 Open Stanislas 2026 – Nemausos 54 (registration, schedule, list of participants).

Participants: 116 players from 7 countries (Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, France).

Playing schedule: 2 days, 7 sessions of each 1h55min

Location: New and spacious event hall, outside the center of Nancy (Salle de Fêtes de Gentilly), about 20min from the station. There was a large free parking zone and a bus stop in front of the venue. Arrows outside helped the players to find the room. Plenty of room between the tables, and sufficient rest area and sanitary.

Equipment: New MCR sets were used with specially designed flower tiles, bamboo 1 and circle 1. The tiles were of great quality and slightly smaller than usual. The designs for the seasons were inspired by the (Ecole de Nancy) Art Nouveau style buildings and the flowers by the typical plants of the city. The tables and chairs were also of good quality, with a 5th chair at every table to deposit and show the scoring sheet. Every table was equipped with a reference sheet explaining the special tiles, a scoring table and nice standard scoring sheets in the style of the club.

Refereeing: Bruno de Aguiar was the only non-player referee. There were no assistant-referees but some volunteers to help with the counting on the scoring sheets in case of need.

Complaints:
There were no serious complaints about the organisation, only a few minor remarks and tips:

- One referee for such a big room with 116 players is maybe too little. Fortunately, no major incidents occurred.
- Green pens were provided to fill in the score sheets, matching the green club style, but many players mentioned they were hard to read (green colour is less visible than black or blue).
- On the scoring sheet no space was provided for penalties, nor for the total amount of flower tiles per player.
- The special tiles looked nice, but many players mistook the Bamboo 1 for a flower tile, despite the reference sheets and explanation before the games started, resulting in quite a few dead hands that could have been avoided with regular tiles. The design doesn't look

like a regular bird which was indeed confusing. Some also mentioned that the Circle 1 design was too small.
- A few of the tables were less comfortable than others because you could not stretch your legs under the table, but they were all provided with borders and a nice playing surface.
- It was rather cold in the playing room, and we heard a constant zooming noise that was somewhat disturbing (airco, ventilation?).
- Sanitary wasn't always clean, posters attended the users to keep them clean, but toilet brushes and garbage bins were missed to that extent.
- Results after first day and final results were published on the facebook page of the club, but not on the website, where all players would have had access to the results. They were shown on the screens in the venue after each session and after the prize ceremony.

Information / communication during the tournament:
A lot of information was given in e-mails beforehand, always both in French and English.
Bruno presented the whole event in French and English, and made clear announcements between the sessions whenever needed. The timer was visible on multiple big screens, and the gong sounded at the start and end of each session.

Sessions: The players behaved well during the games, and time was sufficient to mostly finish 16 games per session. The breaks were long enough to get some fresh air between the games.

Catering: Breakfast (fresh pastries and fruit) and coffee/tea/soft drinks and water were provided, and players were encouraged to bring their own mug, but some cups were available for those who didn't bring one. During the breaks there were plenty of sweet treats like cakes and cookies and fruit.
All players received two tickets for lunch (different colour for adapted meals) and desserts. The menus for the warm lunches were communicated beforehand and shown on a poster when leaving the playing area. The meals were individually packed, decent portions and served fast and hot. Downside of this was the huge pile of waste, but in general the meals were appreciated. The desserts and cheese selection were widely appreciated.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), a consolation prize for the last place, a prize for the most flower tiles and for the best performing team and the top 10 players. The volunteers, the referee and even the observer received gifts as well.
Keeping track of the number of flower tiles scored by each player during every session was perceived as an extra task for the East player (writer) by some. They sometimes forgot to check and were not entirely sure they tracked correctly, especially when the winner did not repeat the number of flowers in English and the players had already started to shuffle.

Conclusion: Very well organized by the Nemausos54 club in collaboration with FFMJ and MIL. Outstanding game level, smooth and professional organisation flow. All players even received a little bag with a pin, tissues and candy as a souvenir. This was a wonderful tournament to remember!