Observer report for Winds of Autumn 2026

Observer: Luuk van Balkum

Date: Oktober 24/25 2026

Place: Edewecht, Germany

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website of Deutsche Mah-Jongg Liga (DMJL) https://dmjl.de/winds-of-autumn-2026/

Participants: 40 players, 3 countries

Germany: 11
Netherlands: 27
Belgium: 2

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

Location: The Haus der Begegnung was a perfect location for a tournament with just 40 players. It was big enough with a separate lunch area about the same size at the playing hall

Equipment: We all played with standard mahjong sets. There were 2 different types of tables but both in good condition and not too big or too small

Refereeing: Nadine König was non-playing referee

Complaints:

- Even though the rounds were 115 minutes, I noticed that no table finished the 16 games before the time was up. For me I managed to finish 2 tables with 16 games and the rest ended around 14/15
- One player had her first tournament, and everyone was asked to help her with counting after she got the first 8 points. Which let to confusion for some people because it is a MERS tournament
- Almost everyone was talking German at the tables in which is okay when all the people at the table can speak the German language. But at tables where it was obvious not everyone was able to there was a lack people being able to speak English and still some communication in German.

Information / communication during the tournament:
Visible clock projected from a beamer on a big screen. A gong clearly informs players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date between each session, shown on the same screen as the clock between the rounds.

Sessions: Excellent playing atmosphere, FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun). Apart from the language barrier everyone was having fun and I did not notice any big discussions

Catering: Lunch was in a different room with enough space. The food itself was of very good quality. A warm buffet with even a little dessert. Also, in the normal breaks there were pies, chocolate and candy.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd). Three special prizes meant for specific wind including hands, but only one of them was achieved so the organization found different achievements to still be able to award these prizes

Conclusion: A wonderful tournament in Edewecht. Organization was very good and some extra points because of the catering. A tournament to remember for someone for who it was his first time at a tournament in Germany