Observer report for TNT Paris Open 2026 (Riichi, MERS 3)

Observer: Tessa Sachse

Date: October 31 – November 1, 2026

Place: 28 Rue Laure Diebold, 75008 Paris, France

Website or other source(s) of information: All information are on the website of the Tri Nitro Tiles Paris Mahjong Club (https://www.tnt-sessions.com/tournaments/tnt-paris-open)

Participants: 52 players, 7 countries
(According to rule 12b of the EMA Presidium Ruling file: “Players with a guest EMA number count as members of the organizing country when determining tournament weight”)

FRA	ESP	UKR	SUI	POR	POL	EUR	AUS
42	4	1	1	1	1	1	1

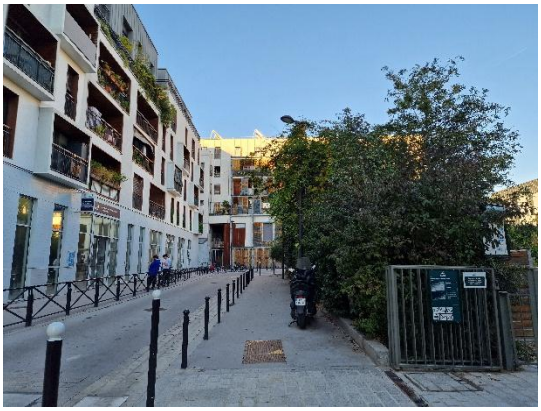
Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 rounds of 75 minutes each according to the EMA rules from 2025 (3 rounds on the first day, 5 rounds on the second day)

Location: The location was easy to find, within a 5 minute walk from the nearest bus stop. There were demonstrations going on in the city center during the first tournament day and this affected the public transportation system but the organizers forestalled the inconvenience by informing the players beforehand, so we could plan accordingly.

The location is a community hall provided by the city government for local community use. It was spacious and well ventilated, and the players who finished their rounds earlier could move throughout the room without disturbing those who were still playing.

The lobby of the location also served as the break-room for the players.

There were only two toilets in the location and this resulted in long lines between rounds. But all the players were informed about this at the beginning of the tournament.





Equipment: All the mahjong sets used were clean and in good condition..

Refereeing: Referee 1: Yulong Zhao (non-playing); Referee 2: Sérgio Matos-Lima (playing)

Complaints: There was a tiny bit of confusion before the tournament began as the players had to queue up twice, once to get their player number and their table assignments and then again to get their wind assignments. But this was just at the beginning and it was quickly resolved.

There were a couple of tables which were a bit wobbly. There was an automatic table being used as a normal table in the early rounds but this was replaced with a normal table after a player complained that the automatic table makes it difficult to shuffle the tiles manually. These issues were addressed quickly and competently by the organizers as soon as it was brought to their attention.

There was an incident where a table could not account for some points. As I understood it, the referee shared the lost points between all four players of that table, which is a fair solution for everyone.

Information / communication during the tournament:
There was a visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. An announcement from the referee clearly informs the players of the start and the end of the sessions. The ranking was updated between each session and could be found online and on the screen.

Sessions: All the sessions had an excellent playing atmosphere, and FFF (fair play, friendly and fun) ruled the days of the tournament.

Catering: Water, juice, soft drinks, and hot drinks, as well as snacks (fruits, biscuits and pastries) were available in the lobby throughout the tournament. As stated on their website, lunch was only included on the second day of the tournament as the first tournament day started at 2 pm. The lunch selection consisted of rice or noodle bowls. It was delicious and there was enough variety for those with different dietary requirements.

Prizes: Thoughtful presents such as a delicacy food basket, books and a book nook were given out to the three players with the highest scores (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) and to the EMA observer.

Congratulations to Julien Delamarche, Debbie Chan and Caitlin Seltrecht!



Conclusion: This was an excellent tournament. There were no major issues and any issues that came up were efficiently and quickly resolved. Kudos to the TNT Mahjong Club for the great organization.

Participating in a well-organized tournament is always great and having such a tournament in a beautiful city like Paris is an added bonus.

I had a great experience in Paris and I am looking forward to the next one!