



Observer report for Furiten Tournament 2014 (Riichi, MERS 1)

Observer: Philip BIELBY

Date: 19th January 2014

Place: Bussum, The Netherlands

Website or other source(s) of information: All information can be found on the [Furiten](#) website, including the list of participants, schedule, subscription form, information about the local area, transport information. Results were published during the tournament on the [Mahjong News](#) website.

Participants: 48 players, some of which were substitutes/replacement players.

Represented Countries:

- The Netherlands: 39
- France: 4
- United Kingdom: 2
- Spain: 1
- Portugal: 1
- Japan: 1

Playing schedule: 1 day, 4 hanchan of 75 minutes (before gong and final hand).

Location: The 'mind sports' centre in Bussum was plenty big enough for the 48 players. There were unused tables that could have catered for a larger tournament.

Equipment: The tables used were from the bridge club from the venue. These were covered with a mixture of carpetted wooden frames and mahjong mats, both of which seemed to be fine for building walls against, and didn't have any noticeable unevenness when playing. The mahjong sets were all identical sets of riichi tiles of a reasonable size, including proper red fives. There were spare sets readily available, as was demonstrated when a tile went missing from one set.

Refereeing: Martin Rep was non-player referee.

Complaints: None.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. A gong clearly informs players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date between each session, printed and posted on walls and projected from a computer on to a screen. A custom made

system was used for entering the scores and deciding on the tables for the Swiss/Dutch seating. There were no problems encountered with this (other than some human error when a couple of scores were transposed, and that accented letters in names did not seem to be displayed correctly).

Sessions: Everyone seemed to have fun, and played fairly.

Catering: Sandwiches were provided for lunch, and two drinks (tea/coffee/etc.) were available in the breaks from the bar. There were some additional snacks just before the prize ceremony.

Prizes: Everyone received a certificate for participating. There were prizes for the top three (as well as some flowers), for the best scores in each hanchan, and as a nice bonus, for the player winning the final chan-kan of the tournament. The prizes were a mixture of Japanese souvenirs, including mahjong cards, and little Buddha statues.

Conclusion: A fun tournament. The Swiss/Dutch seating system didn't seem to cause any problems, and I see no problem with it being used for other events, but I think the effects would be better felt over a longer tournament where there is more time for the luck to even out. A lot of the players were more used to playing MCR than Riichi, which was noticeable. However, there were a few more Riichi-oriented players present, and everyone seemed to have fun regardless and didn't take it too seriously, which is probably a good idea in so short a tournament.