



Observer report for 5th Open European Mahjong Championship 2014

Observer: Marco Milandri

Date: July 3th – 6th 2014

Place: Strasbourg, France

Registration fee: 200€

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website www.oemc2014.fr. The main information were available in different languages (English, French, Italian, German and Spanish). The website had a lot of information about the location, transport, hotels, special tiles, players, city, menus of the lunches during the tournament...

A week before the tournament in the website it was available a pdf with the main information about the tournament.

Participants: 204 players of 19 countries.

Represented countries:

FRA	NED	ITA	RUS	JPN	GER	AUT	DEN	CHN	ESP	HUN	BEL	SUI	SWE	SIN	CAN	POR	GBR
47	25	24	16	15	12	12	11	10	8	8	5	3	2	2	2	1	1

Playing schedule: 3 days, 11 rounds (4+4+3) of 120 minutes

Location: Pavillion Josephine inside the “Parc de l’Orangerie”.The building has two wings, one hosted the tables for playing and the stage with the big projector screen, the other with the tables for the lunch. The two rooms were large enough to contain the 204 players, but not more. The day before the tournament it was held also an EMA referee seminar in the same place of the tournament.

Equipment: We played with new games without numbers and tables with a wood frame. Flowers, seasons, 1 dot and 1 bamboo were personalized. In some cases 1 bamboo was confused with a flower tile. At each table there were a calculator, a clipboard for the score sheet, an indicator of the wind of the round and an indicator of the east side of the table. The score sheet contained also information about the winner and the discarder of each hand.

Refereeing: 5 non playing referees, 3 from France (Lionel Legaie, Martial Regnault, Alexandre Martin), 1 from Germany (Anne Schäfer) and 1 from Hungary (Norbert Szamboki). Lionel Legaie was head referee. During this tournament were used “referee cards” to apply penalties when a referee was called at the table. The cards were: warning, penalty -10, penalty -30+10+10+10, penalty -60+20+20+20 and dead hand. They were of different colours and written in English, French, Japanese and Chinese.

Complaints: A little complaint of some players because the playing room hasn't air conditioning and during the first and the last day it was very hot inside the room. Another little complaint was about the lack of the schedule of the tournament, I think that in a big tournament like that it is useful to have the starting time of each round printed in the summary of the playing tables of each player.

Information / communication during the tournament:

The day before the tournament there was the registration with the draw of the playing number and the distribution of the list of the tables where to play. Each player received a bag with some gadgets inside.

Visible clock projected from a computer on a big screen on the stage. A gong clearly informs players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date with a round of delay because it was recorded the winner and the discorder of each hand. During the last day no results were exposed to keep suspense about the winners.

Sessions: Excellent playing atmosphere.

Catering: Gala dinner, breakfast and lunch in the same place. The idea of the breakfast was very good because in this way the players could arrive early and have breakfast all together. Coffee break after each round with delicious croissants, coffee and tea. The food was good and enough for all the players. The buffet lunch was different every day.

Prizes: Prizes for best 10 teams, best 10 players, highest minipoints of each round and first hand ≥ 64 minipoint for each round.

Conclusion: Wonderful tournament in a beautiful location. The organization was perfect and it was nice to have a lot of prizes for teams, players and special hands. The registration fee was commensurated to what the players received. The idea of referee cards was good especially because there were a lot of Chinese and Japanese players that didn't speak English and in this way the intervention of the referee was clear also for them.