



Observer report for Graz Open 2015 (Riichi, MERS 2)

Observer: Philip BIELBY

Date: April 25th - 26th

Place: Graz, Austria

Website or other source(s) of information: All information can be found on the [Ryan Pin](#) website, including the list of participants, schedule, registration form, travel information. Results were published on the website after the tournament.

Participants: 32 players

Represented Countries:

- Austria: 14
- Slovakia: 7
- Russia: 4
- United Kingdom: 2
- Denmark: 2
- Czech Republic: 2
- France: 1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 hanchan (4+4) of 75 mins before gong and final hand.

Location: The technical university in Graz contained a room that was large enough for the 32 players.

Equipment: The tables were of an appropriate size and shape, and were all covered with 'junk mats'. Most of the sets were consistent and with tiles of a reasonable size (with no Arabic numerals and with proper red fives), although there was at least one set that had slightly larger tiles. Tenbo sticks were used, with each player getting 30000 points, and 'borrowing' more when needed in the form of additional black 10000 sticks.

Refereeing: Alexander Wankmüller was non-player referee.

Complaints: None.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. Exciting animated ranking lists shown on the screen between rounds (with each game added giving a transition between scores). This had some minor issues, but nothing that really affected the tournament, as it was all resolved by Alexander while play was going on.

Sessions: Everyone was friendly and fair and seemed to have fun.

Catering: Lunch at two different restaurants on the two days, with Austrian cuisine. Lots of snacks were available between the rounds throughout the tournament, along with tea and coffee making facilities and soft drinks. On the Saturday night there was a group outing to an Asian fusion restaurant, which was attended by almost everyone at the tournament, and was rather enjoyable.

Prizes: There were certificates for all of the participants with their final position on them. The top three got a trophy each.

Conclusion: A great tournament, with a fairly high standard of play in evidence. I think everyone had fun, and there was a lively atmosphere throughout the weekend. The restaurants were a little slow in serving food, but this didn't seem to put anything off schedule. There were no real problems during the tournament, and everything seemed to go very smoothly. The animated score board was a nice touch. The room in the university was quite nice, and the local area was an interesting place to visit.