



Observer report for Ostrava Riichi Open 2017 (Riichi, MERS 1)




Observer: Juraj Móz a

Date: November 11th 2017

Place: Ostrava, Czech Republic

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website of Upper Silesian Mahjong Association (USMA – mahjongilesia.wordpress.com) : registration, rules, program, list of participants, fees etc.

Participants: 28 players (1 substitute)

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| 18 | 6 | 3 | 1 |

Playing schedule: 1 day, 4 rounds of 75(+15) minutes

Location: A conference room in a hotel near Ostrava centre (5 minutes by bus). Room was big enough and after adjustments (wall mirrors needed to be covered) it was a pleasant place to play at.

Equipment: Mixed size sets and mats, would be good to have one size and same mat type on all tables but this is almost always impossible as it depends on what equipment do the members of the organizing club have.

Refereeing: 3 referees present, Piotr Powalowski, Radka Pernicová and Daniel Široň were player referees.

Complaints: Start delayed by a bit due to forgotten equipment that resulted in minor delay (that was caught up with during lunch, so tournament ended as it was originally scheduled). Another minor issue was that while snacks were present at the place organizers forgot to unpack them so in the end nobody had any until they noticed (after the tournament has ended ☺).

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 visible on computer screen.

Sessions: Excellent playing atmosphere, no issues with communication as all participants were from Slavic countries, speaking similar language, so even non-English speaking participants were able to communicate with others. FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun).

Catering: As mentioned in complains there was a lack of snacks due to a mistake, however the most important thing, water was provided for everyone. Lunch in the same place (complete meal from the hotel's kitchen) along with a coffee and a drink of choice. After tournament there was an after-party in a restaurant nearby for the willing.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), and one more for the best hanchan.

Conclusion: Very nice tournament in Ostrava in a nice place. Comfortable and fun atmosphere as people from neighbouring countries attended (which is also a shame on the other hand that we didn't have more players from the rest of the Europe). Really good lunch and restaurant choice for after-party. Nice idea to join the tournament with referee seminar, though I'm not allowed to comment on how the seminar went as I personally did not attend.