



Observer report for Brno Riichi Tournament 2018 (Riichi, MERS 2.5)






Observer: Łukasz GRZYBOWSKI

Date: 2018 April 21st – 22nd

Place: Brno, Moravia, Czech Republic

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website of ratka.cz : registration, program, list of participants, payment, payment method, ema observer and referee.

Participants: 32 players (9 countries)

								
8	8	5	4	2	2	1	1	1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 rounds (4+4) of 90 minutes (the clock was set up for 75 minutes when after that players finished the round and played one more).



Location: Kryt “Z-10” – an atomic shelter stylised in cold war fashion. Room is large enough to host around 40 players and leave enough space between them. Close to the main train and bus stations. There was a small problem with parking nearby. 14 degrees Celsius inside.

Equipment: Japanese sets a bit smaller than regular and mats with place for sticks.

Refereeing: Radka Pernicova was the playing referee

Complaints: None.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. Ranking were up after 2nd, 4th and 7th and the end of the tournament. There was a slight disagreement between the referee and a player regarding 3 second rule for ron, the referee solved it by first telling that there is no such a rule anymore in EMA Riichi, which did not stop the player from still complaining and not believing, the referee then asked other certified referees in the venue, which confirmed her words, the player angrily returned to the game. The organisers introduced WRC orasu sheet to the tournament, however since it is not written in the EMA rules, some players refused to count their points. Some players were leaving table before signing the papers, sorting out the riichi sticks and turning the tiles to face down, and other minor riichi etiquette problems such as playing with both hands, rushing with the dice rolling before a part of a wall were built, rushing to build the wall before all the tiles were facing down etc. No phone reception, but there was a Wi-Fi provided by the bunker.

Sessions: Mainly good atmosphere, some players were irritated by very slow speed of one player.

After Sessions: After party after the first day in the same place as the lunch were, then playing till midnight in the bunker for the willing.

Catering: Lunch in a place very close to the venue, pretty tasty Czech food, free one drink per each day during lunch. Free sandwiches, poppy-seed cakes, cheese cakes, coffee, tea, lemonade, juice, water served in the bar. There was miscommunication between organisers and the bunker staff about the hour that they should serve, there were available before second hanchan started on both days.

Accommodation: There was an option to choose to sleep in the bunker, as my more experienced team member said, it is how sleeping places looked like 20 years ago with shared bathrooms. Pretty interesting concept and very different experience.



Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd) and a voucher for the last non-Czech player with free admission to the next tournament in Brno.

Conclusion: Very nicely made first time tournament in Brno. I have no complaints regarding the organisation, however I wish some players learn to play a bit faster, as some played really slowly. Cannot wait to participate for the next Brno tournament.