



Observer report for Graz Open 2018 (Riichi)

Observer: Henrik LETH

Date: April 27th – 28th 2018, including referee seminar on 29th

Place: Graz, Austria

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website of Ryan Pin (<https://ryanpin.jesterbox.org/en/tournament/>): registration, program, list of participants, etc. Also advertised on facebook.

Participants: 24 players from 7 countries (11 for the referee seminar)

Austria 15, Britain 2, France 2, Poland 2, Slovakia 1, Germany 1, Denmark 1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 hanchans (3+5) of 90 minutes.

The tournament was played on Friday and Saturday due to the new EMA rules that 2-day tournaments cannot overlap. I understand that several more people would have participated had this been Saturday and Sunday. It seems extremely unlikely that any of these or the participants would have gone to Perm. I sincerely believe that EMA should re-consider the new rule, e.g. making it less strict by including a distance between the tournaments or other measure to enable some 2-day tournaments overlapping if participating in both seems unlikely anyway.

Location: The Technical University of Graz.

Equipment: Games and tables of adequate quality.

Refereeing: Alexander Wankmüller was non-playing referee – although he had to play a couple of hanchans. There were only 22 players so 2 substitutes were called, and they could not be there for the full time.

Complaints: None. I had no comments from the players in my capacity as EMA Observer.

Information / communication during the tournament: Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. A (computer) gong clearly informs players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date between each session also projected on the screen. Seating posted so everyone could see who they would play in each hanchan.

Sessions: Excellent playing atmosphere, FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun).

Catering: Pre-ordered lunch in town. Asian restaurant for dinner Friday evening for anyone who wanted to join. Coffee, tea and delicious cakes in the breaks.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd). Last player can participate for free in next year's tournament.

Conclusion: Very nice and friendly tournament with a good atmosphere.